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Court orders probe of Carlos 'kidnap'

PARIS (R) — An appeals court has ordered a probe into a complaint by international guerrilla mastermind "Carlos the Jackal" that he was kidnapped by French authorities when he was seized in Sudan, justice sources said on Wednesday. The court ruled that the arrest in August 1994 of Venezuelan-born Carlos, whose real name is Illich Ramirez Sanchez, took place "outside any legal framework, and without an international warrant or an extradition convention between France and Sudan." Carlos was spirited to France after his arrest and is serving a life sentence for shooting dead two French secret service agents in 1975. On landing in France he was handed a national arrest warrant issued by anti-terrorism Judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere. The sources quoted the court as saying a Paris tribunal should investigate the complaint over "events which may have been committed by French nationals, aboard a French plane and on French territory." Carlos has repeatedly stated that two agents of the French DST secret services were present when he was seized in Sudan and were on the plane which took him to France.

MP in Lebanon gets 7 years in jail

BEIRUT (AFP) — A Lebanese court on Wednesday for the first time jailed a member of parliament (MP) for drug trafficking. Yahiya Shamass was given a seven-year sentence but the court deducted the two years he has already spend behind bars. Correspondents said Mr. Shamass, who is being held at the central prison, was not in court for the verdict. The MP was stripped of parliamentary immunity after his arrest in November 1995 for involvement in drug trafficking. He struck back by charging that President Elias Hrawi's son was also implicated in smuggling drugs — an accusation immediately denied by Roy Hrawi. Mr. Shamass, a Shiite Muslim, is an MP from the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley of eastern Lebanon, a region where drug cultivation and trafficking peaked during the 1975-1995 civil war. In 1992, Lebanon launched a crackdown on widespread hashish and poppy growing in the Bekaa with the help of units from the 35,000 Syrian troops deployed in Lebanon. Mr. Shamass, whose trial opened one year ago, has 15 days to appeal against the sentence in the assizes court.

King, Clinton meet today to discuss course of peace

Jordan to receive F-16s by end of July

Combined agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein meets today with U.S. President Bill Clinton as both Israel and the United States look to Jordan to adopt a key role in the region after the emergence of a new right-wing leadership in Israel.

The two leaders will "evaluate the new facts in Israel and its repercussions for the Arab-Israeli peace process," a senior Jordanian official quoted by the AFP said.

Their talks come ahead of the first Arab summit in six years, to be held in Cairo from June 21-23 and hastily convened after peace architect Shimon Peres was narrowly defeated by his right-wing challenger Benyamin Netanyahu in Israeli polls.

Twenty members of the Arab League, with the notable exception of Iraq, have been invited and have confirmed their attendance at the summit — a rare event in the recent history of an Arab World still deeply divided by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

A senior Jordanian official, who asked to remain anonymous, said that Jordan could play a key role in easing Arab fears over Mr. Netanyahu's election "because of its privileged relations with Israel."

King Hussein, who is already in the United States, has urged a fresh start to the Arab-Israeli talks suspended since February at the launch of a wave of militant bombings in Israel.

"The peace process needs to be resumed, with increased energy," the King said during a speech at New York University. "I hereby reiterate the commitment of Jordan to cooperate with all parties and spare no effort."

The King added Tuesday in Washington that he was optimistic about the peace process. "Our impression is that progress can be made and will be made," he said.

"I feel there is no reason for pessimism," since the Peres defeat, the King said.

The issue in the Israeli elections "was not one of peace and of the opponents of peace. I believe that the overwhelming majority of Israelis have opted for peace and realised that it is our only way," he said.

"I believe that the issue of the election was the person of the leader, the prime minister. In that regard, the Israelis made their choice and we have to respect that within the democratic framework."

(Continued on page 7)

Srour in Paris

PARIS (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Saad Hayel Srour arrived in Paris Wednesday on a two-day official visit upon an invitation of the president of the French national assembly, Philippe Seguen. Mr. Srour said in a departure statement that his talks will cover French-Jordanian relations in general and parliamentary affairs in particular as well as the latest developments in the Middle East region and France's role at the European and international levels to solve the region's problems.

New Indian cabinet wins vote of trust

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda won a vote of confidence in parliament on Wednesday, ending six weeks of political tumult in the world's most populous democracy. The government won by voice vote after a 12-hour debate over two days. "The motion is adopted," P.S. Sangma, speaker of the lower house, told the lawmakers at the end of the nationally-televised session. The prime minister's centre-left government had the support of some 332 lawmakers in the 545-member house and had been expected to breeze through the vote.

Ciller repeats call for secular alliance

ANKARA (R) — Turkish conservative leader Tansu Ciller, head of the True Path Party (DYP), on Wednesday repeated her call for a four-way secularist alliance to deny power to the powerful Islamist Welfare Party. "Come and let's get to an agreement to form a government," Anatolian news agency quoted her as saying in a call to the three other parties. "The DYP is the biggest of these four parties. Despite this, I still have an attitude of compromise," she said. Former Premier Ciller made no reference to reports in the Turkish press on Wednesday that she was close to making a coalition deal with the Islamists.

Turkey says 78 dead in clashes

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Turkish troops backed by air power killed 72 Kurdish rebels and lost six of their own soldiers in some of the fiercest fighting in southeast Turkey in recent months, security officials said on Wednesday. Air force planes bombed the mountains to cut off possible rebel escape routes in the fighting with Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels in several provinces on Tuesday and Wednesday, security officials said.

Republicans elect Lott majority leader

WASHINGTON (R) — Republicans on Wednesday elected Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi, a staunch conservative with a whip-cracking political style, as U.S. Senate majority leader to succeed Bob Dole, Senate sources said. Mr. Lott, 54, the deputy leader under Mr. Dole, won on a 44-8 vote among Republican senators over his fellow senator from Mississippi, Thad Cochran.

Islamists kill Libyan officer — paper

CAIRO (R) — A Libyan Islamist opposition group said it killed a senior officer in the country's secret police in the eastern city of Benghazi, the scene of sporadic conflict between Islamic groups and government security forces. The Arabic newspaper Al Hayat reported on Wednesday that a man, claiming to be speaking for the Islamic Movement of Martyrs, said the organisation killed Lieutenant Colonel Miflah Bayou, the head of what he called the Anti-Heresy Department.

Likud opens line for negotiation with PNA

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime minister-elect Benyamin Netanyahu will have to meet with Yasser Arafat if he is serious about pledges to continue the peace talks with the Palestinians, a senior figure in Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party said Wednesday.

"In the end it will happen," said Tel Aviv Mayor Ronnie Milo, a Likud moderate. "If they seriously mean to continue the political process... then they will need to meet."

Another Likud official said Likud was finally at peace with the idea of negotiating with the long-shunned Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"We're no longer dedicating our lives to delegitimising the PLO. We've been there and it's over. We're not going to fight the past wars," Izachi Hanegbi, who is part of Mr. Netanyahu's inner circle, told Israel Radio.

"We are going to negotiate with the Palestinian (National) Authority (PNA)."

Mr. Netanyahu, who defeated Prime Minister Shimon Peres on May 29, hopes to present a new government to parliament on Monday after weighing demands for cabinet posts from both religious parties and Likud colleagues.

"The nature of coalition negotiations is ups and downs. I am convinced that within a few days there is going to be a solution to almost every demand of every coalition partner and we will be able to establish our new government," Mr. Hanegbi said.

Mr. Netanyahu, 46, won election promising to get tough with militants and forswearing the land-for-peace negotiating policy of his Labour Party predecessors, Mr. Peres and assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Netanyahu has said he would only meet Mr. Arafat if it was vital for Israel's security.

On Tuesday, Mr. Milo met with Faisal Husseini, a member of Mr. Arafat's cabinet in charge of Jerusalem affairs, in the first high-level contacts between the two sides since the May 29 elections.

Mr. Milo said the meeting was intended to assure the Palestinians that a Netanyahu government would keep open channels of communication.

"I think we need to talk to the Palestinians," said Mr. Milo. "In a political reality where you have to run a country you do things you didn't think you would have done beforehand."

Mr. Husseini also said, there was a need to meet, "to get to know one another."

Mr. Milo said Mr. Husseini had initiated the meeting. The two did not bring up the future of Jerusalem, one of the most burning issues on the Israeli-Palestinian agenda.

Mr. Netanyahu has said he would refuse to even discuss Jerusalem, even though prior agreements say the future of the city will be on the agenda in talks on a final peace accord.

Mr. Netanyahu warned Palestinian officials and foreign diplomats that his government will not tolerate Palestinian political activities in East Jerusalem.

Responding to a meeting Tuesday night between Palestinian officials and foreign envoys at the Orient House, the unofficial PLO office in East Jerusalem, Mr. Netanyahu's office said such activities "run contrary to the (peace) agreements" between Israel and the Palestinians.

"The policy of the Netanyahu government concerning the Orient House and attempts by the Palestinian authority to carry out activities (there)... will be different than that of the current government," Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman said in a state-

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Israeli support for peace process is strong despite rightist victory

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli public support for the peace process has grown despite the election victory of the right-wing Likud Party, but conservative and religious Israelis remain highly mistrustful of Palestinian self-rule agreements, according to a poll released Wednesday.

The poll, carried out a day after Likud leader Benyamin Netanyahu defeated Labor Prime Minister Shimon Peres in May 29 elections, showed that 66 per cent of Israelis support the peace process, up from 63 per cent the previous month.

The survey, carried out by the Tel Aviv University centre for peace studies, said 76 per cent of Likud voters backed continuation of the peace process, compared to 95 per cent among Labour supporters. But among the 20 per cent of the Israeli electorate who backed orthodox and ultra-orthodox parties in the election, only 56 per cent endorsed the peace process.

When asked specifically if they approved of the 1993 and 1995 accords which granted limited autonomy to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, only 21 per cent of Likud supporters and 17 per cent of religious voters said yes.

The level of support for Oslo among supporters of Labour and the left-wing Meretz party was 79 per cent.

Concerning an eventual Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Syria, 62 per cent of Israelis opposed a pullout and only 18 per cent said they would favour such a move.

In the runup to the election, Mr. Netanyahu moderated his previous opposition to the peace process, campaigning on a platform which promised to pursue peace negotiations with Palestinians and neighboring Arab states while giving top priority to ensuring Israel's security.

The platform notably ruled out territorial concessions to Syria on the Golan Heights or the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

When asked what they believed would happen to the peace process under a Likud government, only 5.8 per cent of Israelis felt the process would halt, compared to 14 per cent in April.

Thirty-two per cent of respondents said the peace process would be put on hold at least temporarily while the new government reevaluated its position and 48 per cent said the process would proceed but with Mr. Netanyahu demanding more from the Palestinians in terms of anti-"terrorist" actions.

In the elections, religious parties won an unprecedented 23 seats in the 120-member Knesset, or parliament, compared to 32 for Likud, 34 for Labour and nine for Meretz.

In a parallel election for prime minister, Mr. Netanyahu ousted peace architect Peres by a one per cent margin. Mr. Netanyahu is still engaged this week in negotiations on forming a coalition government with the religious parties and a secular movement of Russian-speaking immigrants which won seven seats. He has until July 20 to present his government to the Knesset.

Peres to announce plans after Netanyahu takes over

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres, defeated in Israel's recent elections, said Wednesday he would not reveal his plans for the future until the next government has been formed.

"I will make no statements about my plans before the new government is formed," Mr. Peres said when asked about reports he planned to retire as Labour Party leader following his election defeat.

"Given my current responsibilities as prime minister, I don't want to deal with party issues until the new government is formed. I hope next week," said the 72-year-old Labour veteran.

The remarks raised the possibility that Mr. Peres, leader of the Labour Party, was still considering joining a government led by Benyamin Netanyahu and the right-wing Likud Party.

Mr. Netanyahu said during the campaign he would offer Labour to join a Likud-led coalition, but has not repeated the offer since winning the May 29 election.

Mr. Peres' top policy adviser, Yossi Beilin, said earlier this month that Labour should not rule out joining a Netanyahu government if this would assure a continuation of Mideast peacemaking. Mr. Peres himself has not spoken out on the issue.

Israel Radio reported Wednesday that Mr. Peres would hold on to the party leadership for the next few months. Party laws stipulate that in the event the party loses in the elections, a new leader must be chosen within 14 months.

Two contenders for leadership, outgoing Foreign Minister Ehud Barak and In-

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. group honours King, Peres for contribution to liberty and freedom

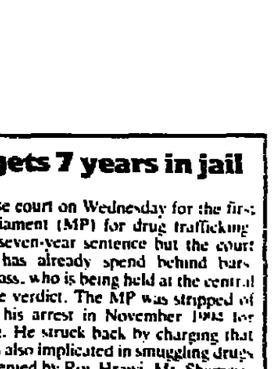
PHILADELPHIA (R) — King Hussein and outgoing Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres were named on Tuesday as joint winners of the 1996 Philadelphia Liberty Medal for forging a peace treaty that normalised relations between their two countries.

The $100,000 award, now in its eighth year, is given annually by a private, non-profit, non-political organisation with corporate funding in recognition for contributions to the principles of American democracy.

"King Hussein and Prime Minister Peres have played extraordinary roles, over many years, in pursuing peace and liberty in the Middle East," Martin Meyerson, chairman of the medal's selection commission and retired University of Pennsylvania president, said in the award announcement.

"The 1994 accord between Jordan and Israel is remarkable because it goes beyond the cessation of belligerency and focuses on the normalisation of relations. It is both a model for the Middle East and a stimulus for the world," Mr. Meyerson said.



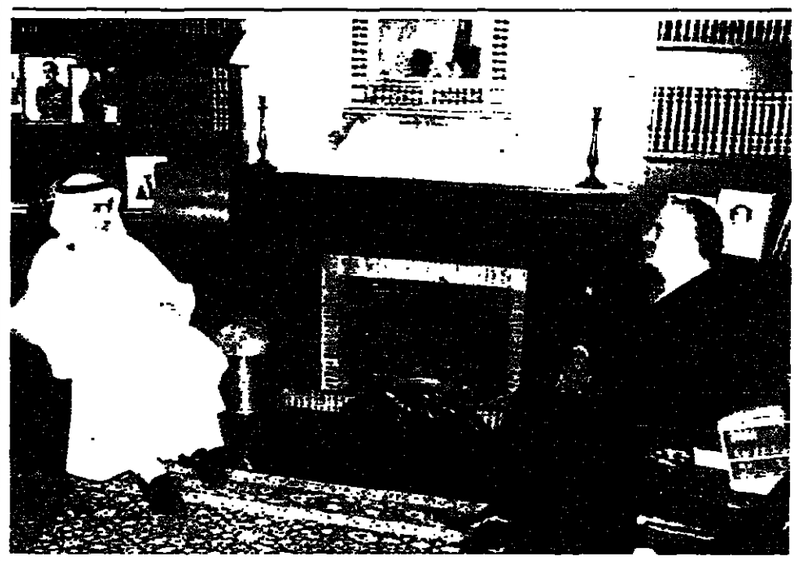


Shimon Peres

Mr. Peres will attend the award ceremony on U.S. Independence day, July 4, organisers said. King Hussein had not yet confirmed he would come, said Mary Gregg, executive director of the medal organisation.

The Liberty Medal is presented each year at Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776 and

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REGENT MEETS SAUDI MINISTER: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesay receives Saudi Trade Minister Osama Faqih for talks on Jordanian-Saudi cooperation. Mr. Faqih, who is here for detailed discussions on trade ties (see page 3)

Ekeus suggests Iraq might be hiding arms

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Rolf Ekeus, the U.N. official in charge of Iraqi disarmament, said on Wednesday there was "high probability Baghdad was hiding weapons materials at sites barred to his inspectors.

"There is a high probability Iraq is hiding items which we are convinced still exist in the country," he told reporters after briefing Security Council members on Iraq's refusal to allow his experts into two military sites on Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM), said that his 30-member team, led by Russian ballistic missiles experts Nikita Smidovich, said the inspectors had been barred from Revolutionary Guard sites twice, most recently on Wednesday, in defiance of the Security Council.

Iraq, he said, had escalated its opposition in its refusal to allow any of the inspections, rather than delay them as in the past. "We have a new dimension by the outright refusal, it is no longer a question of delay," he said.

The 15-member Security Council was meeting behind closed doors to consider how to react to the latest standoff with Iraq, as well as to Baghdad's proposal for the dispatch of a council team comprising diplomats or experts from the five permanent member countries — the United States, Russia, Britain, China and France — and the council's current president, Ambassador Nabil Al Araby of Egypt.

The inspectors, hunting for documents and materials related to prohibited arms programmes, were barred from facilities belonging to the Republican Guard. The Security Council was considering a resolution or statement deploring the Iraqi action and demanding immediate, unfettered access to all sites they wish to inspect.

Iraq accused U.N. arms experts of provoking the standoff and said it had barred them from two out of eight complexes for security reasons.

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Mitchell row resolved in N.Ireland peace talks

BELFAST (AP) — Face-saving and recrimination reigned Wednesday after George Mitchell, the former U.S. senator, was installed over Protestant objections to oversee Northern Ireland's peace talks.

Mr. Mitchell, nominated by the British and Irish governments to lead the politicians' search for compromise, was approved just after midnight following 15 hours of back-room haggling with the largest Protestant party, the Ulster Unionists.

But the Rev. Ian Paisley, leader of the hardline Democratic Unionists, denounced Mr. Mitchell as a "dictator" to his face and stormed out, vowing not to return to the Stormont negotiating venue east of Belfast.

Mr. Mitchell wasted little time in taking charge. At 1 a.m. he instructed the seven party leaders still there to pledge themselves to his six-point renunciation of violence — the key recommendation of Mr. Mitchell's January report into promoting peace talks here. His principles also require a commitment to the total disarmament of all paramilitary organisations.

Mahdi: Last chance for bloodless deal in Sudan

CAIRO (Agencies) — Sudanese opposition leader Sadeq Al Mahdi said in an interview published on Wednesday that an opposition petition for the government's resignation was the last chance for a political settlement without bloodshed.

Ten Sudanese politicians and trade unionists, including a former vice-president and representatives of the traditional parties, submitted the petition on Monday, saying the government should resign or face the consequences from the people.

Interviewed in Khartoum by the international Arabic-language Al Hayat, Mr. Mahdi said: "The Sudanese inside the country have made several attempts to solve their problems peacefully without bloodshed and the petition on Monday was the latest of these."

"This is the last attempt which is not stained in blood."

Mr. Mahdi was the democratically elected prime minister of Sudan when Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir seized power in a military coup in 1989. He lives under close surveillance in his home in Omdurman, across the White Nile from Khartoum.

King Fahd marks 14 years on throne

DUBAI (R) — King Fahd marks 14 years on the Middle East's richest throne on Thursday at a time of unprecedented speculation about the future of Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Television regularly shows the 75-year-old monarch presiding over the weekly cabinet meeting in his capacity as prime minister, or receiving princes and other dignitaries.

On Saturday, he went to the airport at Jeddah, the country's second city on the Red Sea coast where the temperature at this time of year exceeds 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit), to greet the Sultan of Oman, Qaboos Ben Said.

State television showed the king smiling and shaking hands with the sultan and Omani officials on the scorching tarmac.

On Monday he was shown at the evening cabinet in Jeddah, which he is known to prefer to the capital, Riyadh.

The footage of him gesturing and engaging his ministers in conversation belied Western media reports that he is fading after his stroke in November and is on the brink of abdication.

Although he suffers from diabetes and leans on a stout walking stick to relieve discomfort from an arthritic knee, King Fahd invariably appears animated and in full command. His deep black moustache and goatee beard betray no hint of grey.

U.S. Magazine Time said last month the king was suffering from dementia and might soon leave the country permanently, delegating power to his half-brother and heir apparent, Crown Prince Abdullah.

King Fahd handed over the affairs of state temporarily to Abdullah at the beginning of the year but reassumed command seven weeks later.

The Washington Post reported last month that he suffered bouts of confusion and disorientation and, for all practical purposes, the mantle of power had already passed to Prince Abdullah.

The commander-in-chief of the U.S. Central Command, General Binford Peay, had earlier told Jane's Defence Weekly that the general feeling was that King Fahd would go off to Spain or somewhere in Europe for a while and Abdullah would take over.

The King has a palace in the resort of Marbella in southern Spain. The times of London on Saturday quoted sources close to the Spanish government in Madrid as saying King Fahd may shortly step down and retire to Marbella.

Authorities in the conservative Gulf kingdom have not commented officially on the reports.

"The mechanism for him to slip away indefinitely is in place and if he doesn't do that something's wrong," said a Middle East analyst with close connections to the kingdom.

"Something's wrong because he's being forced to stay in place, against what is good for him and good for the kingdom."

King Fahd acceded to the Saudi throne on June 13, 1982 on the death of his half-brother King Khaled.

Since then he has presided over the investment of billions of dollars in oil revenue in modernising the state.

Saudi Arabia, as the world's largest oil producer and exporter has sufficient reserves to last more than a century and is the dominant member of the oil exporters club Organisation Of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC).

At the OPEC 100th meeting in Vienna last week the thorny issue of Iraq's return to world oil markets for the first time since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait was handled adroitly and ultimately on Saudi terms.

Speculation about succession in the tightly-controlled kingdom is watched keenly by world markets and oil prices have reacted to reports on the state of the king's health. Saudi Arabia's vast oil wealth gives it unique political clout in world councils ranging from the United Nations to the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council, where other Gulf Arabs defer to Riyadh as "big brother."

The king is a firm supporter of Middle East peace talks and at Monday night's cabinet called for intensified efforts to resume discussions between Israel and its Arab neighbours, the official Saudi press agency reported.

France urges Iran to move against terrorism

DOHA (R) — France's foreign minister on Tuesday said Iran must respect the principle of non-interference in the affairs of other states and cooperate in the fight against international terrorism.

"I sincerely believe that Iran must respect the principle of non-interference and contribute to peace and security of the area," Herve de Charette told a news conference.

He also urged Iran to "cooperate with the international community in its move against terrorism."

Mr. De Charette's remarks came a week after Bahrain said it had foiled an Iranian-backed plot to topple its government by force and install a fundamentalist Islamic regime.

Iran denied the accusations and has said it wants improved relations with Gulf Arab states.

The United States has accused Iran of sponsoring international terrorism and Gulf Arab states have urged Tehran to stop "interfering" in the affairs of other countries.

Iran, a regional power, has dismissed the charges.

Mr. De Charette arrived in Qatar on Monday on a three-day Gulf tour which he said would cover questions of security, Middle East peace, measures against terrorism and increased economic and military cooperation with Gulf Arab states.

Paris is also seeking lucrative defence contracts in the oil-rich but militarily vulnerable region.

France is a major supplier of fighter planes to the Qatar's airforce. Next year, France's Dassault aviation is expected to replace the country's ageing Mirage fighters with 12 updated models of Mirage 2000-5s, diplomats said.

France also wants to sell battle tanks to Qatar's army.

Mr. De Charette said France was seeking greater cooperation with Qatar in the fields of oil and gas, industry and the military.

British Week offers business, cultural experience

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A commercial and cultural extravaganza highlighting opportunities of doing business with Britain as well as the lighter side of British culture is in the offing in Amman next week, the British ambassador to Jordan announced Wednesday.

The so-called British Week in Amman is being held to mark 50 years of the "modern relationship between the United Kingdom and Jordan," said Ambassador Peter Hinchcliffe, recalling that the first British ambassador to Jordan took office on June 22, 1946 when he presented his credentials to King Abdullah, the late founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The British Week is being held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on whose behalf Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya will inaugurate the event on Friday.

Ambassador Hinchcliffe said the British Week — June 14-21 — will have two aspects — the commercial dimension which will feature an exhibition of products and catalogues of 117 British companies, all of them seeking agency and representation arrangements in Jordan.

The participating companies will represent the "four components" of the United Kingdom — England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales — and include manufacturers of clothing and knitwear, giftware and pottery, perfumes and toiletries, food and drinks, furniture, fabrics, toys, antiques, stationery and sports equipment.

"It is an important opportunity for Jordanians wishing to do business with the United Kingdom" to establish contacts with British companies, said the ambassador.

The commercial exhibition will open on June 16 and will remain in place through June 19 at the Forte Grand Hotel, the venue for all the events scheduled in the British Week.

Britain is among the top six or seven exporters to Jordan, with an annual sales of products worth JD 131 million in 1995. Jordan's



Peter Hinchcliffe

exports to the United Kingdom were worth JD 23 million in the same year, said the ambassador.

The second dimension of the British Week — "the first of its kind to be held in the Arab World" — said Mr. Hinchcliffe, is British culture, with a particular emphasis on the "lighter side" — comedies, music, magic shows and an exhibition of the original works of the Oriential painter David Roberts. The exhibition will be opened by Princess Wijdan.

Among the events featured are "the best of West Musicals," the British Airways Theatre's play, "Bedside Manners," the "Mop-Top Beatles in concert," a magic show by Alan Shaxon, the "Hiss and Boo Theatre" — where the audience because part of the show — the Caspian String Quarters, One Man Band and Close-up Magic, and Noel Coward Cabaret.

"Bedside Manners" stars John Inman, who is very familiar to Jordanian television viewers for his role in the comedy series "Are You Being Served."

Capping the week is an exhibition of a replica "crown jewels" collection. The original collection, owned by the British royal family, is at the Tower of London. An original "Beefeater" on loan to the British Week in Jordan.

The Carl Simmon duo and Gary Williams will perform at the Forte Grand Hotel during the entire duration of the British Week.

Ambassador Hinchcliffe said the British Week in Amman was the first of its kind in the Arab World in that it was the first time commercial and cultural dimensions of Britain were being brought together.

He described it as "the most appropriate way to celebrate the modern relationship" between Jordan and the U.K.

Jordan is holding a similar event in London, with most of the emphasis on the commercial side of the relationship, highlighting the Kingdom's potential for exports as part of a bilateral programme of cooperation.

The British Week in Amman is organised by the British Department of Trade and Industry, the Commercial Section of the British embassy in Amman, the British Council, British Airways and the Forte Grand Hotel in Amman.

Sponsors include the ANZ Grindlays Bank, The British Bank of the Middle East, Royal Doulton, Johnnie Walker, ICI Dulux Paints, Rover Cars, Landrover, Fasha, Najla International, Yadley Cosmetics, Twinnings Tea and British Education Abroad.

Group demands resignation of U.S. official in Libyan money laundering

WASHINGTON (AP) — A group representing relatives of victims in the Pan Am 103 bombing called Tuesday for the resignation of a top treasury official whose office compromised a criminal investigation into Libyan money laundering.

The group called Justice for Pan Am 103 charged that the actions of Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) Director R. Richard Newcomb in the 1994 criminal case fit a pattern in the Clinton administration of "talking tough" about Libya but "doing nothing."

"This information about Newcomb's activities has apparently been around for a long time now, and up to now the administration has chosen to do nothing. This inaction must end now," group spokeswoman Susan Cohen said.

Mrs. Cohen's 20-year-old son Theodore, a Syracuse University student, died in the 1988 bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed all 259 people on the plane and 11 on the ground.

The Clinton administration did not have any immediate comment.

The group was reacting to an Associated Press story detailing how the probe into Libyan moneylaundering was compromised by disclosures of sensitive information from Mr. Newcomb's agency. OFAC's actions angered the other participating law enforcement agencies, the documents obtained by AP show.

The lead Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agent told a recent treasury inquiry into the botched 1994 case that she was "professionally and personally appalled" by uncoordinated disclosures of information from Mr. Newcomb's agency.

The chief of the Justice Department's money laundering section told the same internal inquiry that OFAC "had no business" disclosing the sensitive information.

Documents show even Mr. Newcomb's own criminal investigators were caught off guard by his actions, and objected to them.

Shortly after President Bill Clinton pledged to crack down on Libya, the U.S. government began an investigation into allegations that visa cheques from Libya were being laundered through a New York bank in violation of the Libyan economic embargo.

Key to the investigation, according to the documents, was a confidential informant in the London banking community. The United States also obtained the assistance of the British secret intelligence service.

The breaches occurred shortly after Mr. Newcomb, whose treasury office is charged with enforcing trade embargoes, demanded to see information from the confidential informant so he could brief foreign banking officials, the documents show. OFAC agents strongly objected to disclosing the case file's contents "because the specific information would in and of itself identify" the informant, according to a memo summarising the agents' recent interviews with congressional investigators.

10 Turkish policemen face trial on charges of torture

ISTANBUL (R) — A Turkish court charged 10 policemen on Tuesday for the torture of a group of mostly teenaged students in the southern town of Manisa, a member of parliament following the case said in a statement.

"Despite the pressures by the authorities and their schemes and attempts to to cover up, the torturers have been identified — Manisa criminal court has begun proceedings against 10 torturers, with demands for 70 years in jail for each," Sabri Ergul, Social-Democrat deputy, said in a written statement.

The trial will begin on June 24, Mr. Ergul said.

But Mr. Ergul, who has closely tracked the case since the first claims of torture earlier this year, was sceptical that those facing trial bore full responsibility.

"The police chiefs, who are the head torturers, are hiding while they throw those under their command into the fire," he said. "But this is proof that torturers can be tried...In spite of everything."

The indictment says doctors' reports, the statements of the victims and sworn statements by witnesses pointed to "illegal acts and the use of force" by the policemen against 16 detainees in their efforts to extract confessions. The 14 victims — males and females aged between 14 and the early 20s — have said they were stripped naked, anally raped with batons, given electric shocks, hosed with pressurised water and beaten.

Their lawyer Pelin Erda has said some had to be taken to hospital with internal bleeding and psychological problems.

The publicity surrounding the case led to a rare admission from the outgoing justice minister in February that some members of the security forces were guilty of torture.

Turkey has long been under fire by its Western allies, as well as human rights activists and lawyers, for the alleged police torture of detainees.

The 16 have been on trial since March 12 for alleged far-left activities.

Abu Shakra Introduces Roccobarocco Jeans

General Manager of Abu Shakra Agency Mr. Rami Abu Shakra launched the new Roccobarocco Jeans for men and women.

For the first time Roccobarocco is interpreting its concept of "youth" not only throughout the look created but also the mood, the feel as well the image.

With this new creation, you can be and at the same time appear to be: Instinctive style combined with Fashion - Awareness.

Mr. Abu Shakra continued by saying Jeans men and women are always relaxed and through seeming to belong to this society, sharing stereotype behaviour and attitude. They are in charge of input never subjected to it, they do not follow fashion - they create it.

This the strength of the new generations and this is the strength of Roccobarocco Jeans.

This perfume will be available at Abu Shakra show- rooms and some selected pharmacies and perfumeries.

Now OPENING

DENTAL OFFICE

Comprehensive Dental Care

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UTHSC, San Antonio, TX.

Amman - 7th Circle Trading Center

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Saudi Arabia wants Internet to promote Islam

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia is eager to join the Internet to boost business and promote Islam but it is still debating how to prevent pornography and political opposition manifestos from flooding into the kingdom.

"Imagine in the African jungle, in Europe, America, and even in Alaska people could learn a lot of things about Islam, Arab history and the Saudi economy," said Ihsan Abu Haliqa, a university professor in Saudi Arabia.

"A journalist in the United States, if he wants to write an article about our country, will have direct access to our sources and will no longer have to depend on biased sources," he added.

The Saudi monarchy often receives negative coverage from the foreign press and international human rights organisations because its Islamic law administers corporal and capital punishment to convicted criminals.

But if it hooks up to the Internet, Saudi Arabia will also open the door to the opposition in exile which could spread its ideas through the kingdom from computer sites worldwide accessible on the World Wide Web (WWW).

"The negative aspects of the Internet are pornography and publications hostile to our country and beliefs," said Abdul Jabbar Al Abdul Jabbar, manager of the advanced Arabian systems company.

"But Internet is here and, considering the tremendous impact it has on the economy, Saudi Arabia simply cannot afford not to be part of it," added Mr. Abdul Jabbar, whose company is seeking to become the local Internet server.

"We should take advantage of the instrument while at the same time limiting its negative side as much as possible, because we can't eliminate it completely. "It is possible for the Internet server to block an unwanted site abroad but if someone really wants to access it, he can always do that via a third site," he added.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:05 ... *Double Dragon (Cartoon)*
15:30 The New Three Stooges
15:35 NBA
16:35 Pirates (documentary)
17:00 News Flash
17:02 Children's Programme — Les Pollards
17:30 Varieties — Les Monde Est A Vous
18:30 1996 European Championships: Bulgaria vs. Romania (First Half)
News in French
19:15 News in French
19:30 Second Half
20:25 Nippon — The Land and its People
21:05 Varieties
22:10 Star Trek
22:00 News in English
20:25 Daily Summary — Japan Week
22:35 Feature Film — "Victor Victoria"

PRAYER TIMES

03:50 Fajr
05:25 *(Sunrise) Duha*
12:35 Dhuhr
16:16 'Asr
19:46 Maghreb
21:21 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh. Tel.: 810740

Assemblies of God Church. Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 6374-40
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Amman International Church Tel. 652526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel: 845457
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 653932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman
Tel 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Temperatures are expected to drop during the weekend becoming around average with winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman	18/30
Aqaba	22 / 37
Deserts	16 / 34
Jordan Valley	22 / 37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32 Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 32 per cent. Aqaba 29 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Khalil Abdo	732920
Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab	758848
Dr. Walid Al Masri	675485
Dr. Ahmad Manaa'	839756
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Nairouj pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir	276852
Al Quds pharmacy	(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Nabil Safarrini	901322
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

[illegible]	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre	813813/332
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	6442816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.	6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mulhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	687071
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	6872279
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	6022340/50
Amal Hospital	607155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery	865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)9883323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)9886732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)9990890

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital	(02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)532345. where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone (08) 532340

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

08:15	Sanaa (RJ)
09:00	Muscat (RJ)
09:55	Al 'Ain, Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)
10:05	Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:20	Beirut (RJ)
10:30	New Delhi (RJ)
11:00	Dubai (add) (RJ)
11:00	Colombo (RJ)
17:30	London (RJ)
17:45	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:00	Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
19:30	... Casablanca, Athens (RJ)
20:00	 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
21:40	Rome (RJ)
22:00	Moscow (RJ)
00:45	Larnaca (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30	Muscat (add) (GF)
07:35	Abu Dhabi (add) (GF)
13:40	Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
14:00	Riyadh (SV)
14:30	Shariqah (AH)
20:35	Cairo (MS)
20:55	Paris, Damascus (AF)
21:10	Beirut (ME)
23:20	Istanbul (TK)
23:30	Amsterdam (KL)
00:25	London (KJ)
03:00	Rome (AZ)
03:35	Antalia (TK)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:35	Beirut (RJ)
11:20	Amsterdam, Detroit (RJ)
11:25	Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (R)
12:15	Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:15	Athens, Rome (RJ)
12:30	Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:10	Paris (RJ)
13:25	London (RJ)
21:00	Larnaca (RJ)
21:20	Jeddah (RJ)
21:30	Cairo (RJ)
21:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
23:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
02:30	Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights

04:00	Athens (OA)
06:00	Istanbul (TK)
07:45	Beirut, London (BA)
08:45	Beirut (ME)
14:00	Riyadh (SV)
14:30	Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain, (GF)
15:30	Riyadh (SV)
15:30	Algiers (AH)
21:25	Cairo (MS)
23:55	Damascus, Paris (AF)
04:00	Rome (AZ)
00:40	Antalia (TK)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

10:00	Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
20:30	Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:50	Aqaba (RW)
19:45	Tel Aviv (RW)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman .. 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apricot	840 / 600
Apple	700/ 500
Banana	600/600
Banana (Mukammar)	520/520
Banana (imported)	760/500
Cabbage	70 / 50
Carrot	160/100
Cauliflower	180/130
Cucumber (large)	100/70
Cucumber (small)	160 / 100
Eggplant	210/ 140
Garlic	600/400
Lemon	630/450
Marrow (large)	150/ 100
Marrow (small)	240 / 160
Mulukhiah	160/110
Onion (dry)	120/ 80
Okra	1200/ 700
Orange	370/300
Peach	660/450
Pepper (hot)	380 / 280
Pepper (sweet)	440/300
Potato	260/160
String Bean	500 / 360
Tomato	120/70
Water melon	100 / 70

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WAY TRAIN

PRICES

Regent stresses need to offer special training for Badia Forces

AMMAN (Petra)— His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said during a visit to the Badia and Border Police headquarters in Amman Wednesday that Badia police officers ought to be accorded specialised training relevant to the tribal traditions in the Kingdom so that they would be in a better position to handle problems in the Badia region.

Speaking at a meeting with the force's commander Brigadier Thaher Al Fawaz and the Director General of the Public Security Department (PSD) Lieutenant General Nasouh Muhieddin, the Regent praised the role of the Badia troops in carrying out not only security tasks but also in conducting social and humanitarian services in the Badia and border regions of the Kingdom.

He stressed the importance of appropriate and specialised training for the Badia police officers to upgrade their skills in dealing with issues connected with and emanating from the Badia regions and their traditional bedouin residents .

Suggesting that the Badia and Border Police Force coordinate its programmes with the Al al Bayt University, the Regent said that the university can conduct and compile wide-ranging research on bedouin traditions, social systems and means of developing the tribes' economic and social standards and ensuring their security .

He said that the Badia police troops have a duty to keep close to the local tribes and their settlements in order to learn about, and try to solve their problems directly and provide any required help to settlements in remote regions of the country to attain a balance between the bedouin and urban societies of Jordan .

Referring to the animal feed problem which the bedouins often complain from, Prince Hassan urged the tribes to utilise the desert and arid regions of Jordan by growing animal fodder and called on the concerned authorities to help tribes reclaim the land. He also voiced his support for the Badia police force's efforts to modernise equipment and facilities at the border posts so as to guarantee security in border areas.

Lt. Gen. Muhieddin said that the PSD has embarked on new plans to upgrade the police work in various regions including the Badia and border areas.

Brig. Fawaz presented a briefing on the work of the Badia and Border Police Force since their establishment in 1939 under the late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein.

He said apart from the routine police work the force plays a leading social and humanitarian role in providing services to the tribes of Jordan and is currently giving due attention to appropriate training for the Badia police officers to improve their efficiency and standards and enable them to offer better performance in the field.

Court of Cassation ratifies death sentence

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Court of Cassation Wednesday ratified a ruling by the Amman Criminal Court to execute a 39-year-old man for the murder of his secretary in Syria on Oct. 23, 1994, judicial sources said.

The source told the Jordan Times that the five-judge panel which reviewed the case, unanimously ratified the criminal court's ruling.

Mustafa A. H., a merchant, was sentenced to death on Feb. 27, 1996, after he was found guilty of the premeditated murder of his 22-year-old secretary Maysoun Tawfiq in Syria.

According to the prosecution, Ms. Tawfiq was reported missing by her family after she failed to return home or to report to work.

The victim's brother received a tip that his sister might be in Syria, and when he travelled there, he was informed by the Syrian police that his sister was found murdered in a deserted area outside the capital, the prosecution said.

Under preliminary questioning, the convict denied any knowledge of Ms. Tawfiq's whereabouts.

But investigations discovered that Jordanian border police records showed both the defendant and the victim travelled to Syria on the same day.

The prosecution said when faced with the evidence, the convict admitted to having an affair with Ms. Tawfiq and that she was pregnant.

The prosecution charged that Mustafa lured Ms. Tawfiq to Damascus on the pretence of marrying her, but with the intent to kill her.

The case will be referred to the chief attorney general, then the minister of justice, the prime minister and finally the King for endorsement of the verdict, the source added.

Meanwhile, the criminal court set June 22 to start retrying 12 people, five of them sentenced to death last year, after their case was returned by the Court of Cassation for retrial because of lack of evidence, the judicial source said.

After reviewing the case for nine months, the higher court in March ruled that the criminal court based its sentencing on confessions of the defendants and neglected to study any evidence.

On June 20, 1995 the criminal court handed five death sentences on five of the 12 known as "the Udwan Mills" for their alleged involvement in five murders and armed robberies in 1989, 1990 and 1991.

Nine of the 12 defendants, including two women, were found guilty by the criminal court of committing a total of 230 crimes, including five murders, theft, attempted murder, possession of automatic weapons, kidnapping and fraud. The remaining three were acquitted by the same court.

WHAT'S GOING ON

JAPAN WEEK

THURSDAY

*** Japanese arts exhibitions at the Royal Cultural Centre (4:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.**
*** Japanese movie shows entitled "The Glass Cape" and "Barefoot men" (animation) respectively at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.**
*** Broadcasting of Japanese TV programmeS and films on Jordan Television.**

FRIDAY

*** Japanese arts exhibitions at the Royal Cultural Centre (4:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.)**
"Tombstone for Fireflies" (animation, respectively at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.
*** Broadcasting of Japanese TV programmes and films on Jordan Television.**

BRITISH WEEK

*** British West End Musicals at the Forte Grand Hotel on Friday at 9:00 p.m. (to be preceded by dinner at 7:30 p.m.).**

Seminar urges Arab leaders to place Jerusalem on top of priorities

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in the annual seminar on Jerusalem on Monday welcomed the convening of an Arab summit in Cairo later this month and urged Arab leaders to reunite their stands to be able to counter challenges facing the Arab Nation.

At the conclusion of the two-day seminar, organised by the General Islamic Congress for Jerusalem in cooperation with the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) at the King Abdullah Mosque in Amman, the participants called on the Arab leaders who will attend the summit to place the Holy City of Jerusalem at the top of their priorities and help regain Palestinian rights in the city.

Furthermore, the participants who represent Jordan and other Arab and Muslim countries, called for supporting the Palestinians in their final status negotiations with Israel to help them establish their independent state on their national soil, with Jerusalem as its capital.

In the final communiqué issued at the conclusion of the seminar, the participating scholars and intellectuals also asked the OIC to convene a summit of leaders of Muslim countries to discuss the question of Jerusalem in a comprehensive manner.

In addition, they suggested convening an international Islamic popular conference to familiarise the international public opinion with the Jerusalem question and Arab and Islamic rights in the city and stressed the importance of establishing a data bank on Jerusalem to help provide all those concerned with information on the city.

The participants underlined the need for Arab solidarity and called for providing the needed financial support for the Arab residents of Jerusalem in the face of the Israeli properties law which charges high taxes on Palestinian real estate owners and to help them renovate Islamic holy sites in the city.

Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi opened the seminar on Tuesday on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

At the opening ceremony, Mr. Lawzi delivered an address in which he highlighted the Hashemite family's endeavours to save the Holy City and protect its holy shrines.

Jordan, Saudi Arabia open trade talks

AMMAN (Petra)— The Jordanian-Saudi Joint Committee opened a two-day meeting in Amman Wednesday to promote economic ties and increase the volume of trade between Jordan and Saudi Arabia. The two sides are expected to wind up the talks Thursday with the signing of trade agreements.

At the start of the talks, the Saudi Arabian Minister of Trade Usama Faqih told his Jordanian counterpart Ali Abul Ragheb that Saudi Arabia was looking forward to increasing economic relations and the exemption of national products sold in either country from customs duty and the removal of other trade barriers .

Jordanian-Saudi cooperation in this respect stems from a 1962 economic agreement which is being updated to cater to the present day requirements, said Mr. Faqih.

"Last year, the volume of trade between Jordan and Saudi Arabia reached $675 million, but the two countries are looking with optimism towards further increases in the volume of trade, said Mr. Faqih

"Geographical proximity between the two countries, the land, sea and air transport facilities available to them and the removal of trade barriers are bound to help them expand their cooperation further," added the Saudi minister .

Mr. Abul Ragheb was quoted by Jordan Television as saying: "The meetings mark the start of a new era in relations between the two countries which are expected to witness free flow of capital and goods and further facilities for movement of businessmen and merchants both ways ."

He said the exemption of goods from customs duty and other fees is also bound to help boost trade relations.

"Jordan and Saudi Arabia are moving gradually towards economic integration and are coordinating their efforts to achieve that goal first because they are keen on promoting inter-Arab trade and second because the two countries are currently taking steps to organise their economic activities at the international level, joining the World Trade Organisation and assuming partnership with the European Union," said the minister .



Saudi Arabian Minister of Trade Usama Faqih speaks with Jordan counterpart, Ali Abul Ragheb in the presence of committee member (Petra photo)

The two sides created working groups to discuss transport, telecommunications, culture, information, trade and technical cooperation and these immediately embarked on their tasks to prepare a memorandum of understanding for signing Thursday at the end of the joint committee meetings .

Ministry of Industry and trade sources said that the two sides were also focusing on the cooperation of business communities from both countries, facilitating their visits to either country and encouraging them to launch joint ventures.

Jordanian and Saudi Arabia business people last month held separate meetings and agreed to create a joint Jordanian-Saudi company with a $50 million capital as a nucleus for their future cooperation.

JES urges more efforts to fight pollution

AMMAN (Petra)—The Jordan Environment Society (JES) Wednesday urged the Environment Corporation to work out and implement a long- term system to fight pollution.

JES President Ahmad Obeidat told a meeting organised to mark the World Environment Day (WED) that so far Jordan has not given the pollution of air sufficient priority, especially in congested areas where the air is polluted by car exhaust fumes, factories chimneys and other sources .

He said there was need for preparing technical specifications to control the quality of air, a process which requires coordination among the various concerned parties in the public and private sectors.

The creation of an environment corporation recently was a step in the right direction and an essential step towards the implementation of the national strategy on the environment, said Mr. Obeidat.

"The JES calls for further efforts to be made towards the protection of water resources and the recycling of treated water for agricultural purposes," said Mr. Obeidat, who added that the society urges the concerned authorities in Jordan to find waste dumps especially for the dangerous radio active and chemical waste materials away from residential areas so that they would not be a source of pollution.

So far Jordan has not given the pollution of air sufficient priority, especially in congested areas where the air is polluted by car exhaust fumes, etc.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tubeishat outlined Jordan's efforts over the past years to protect the environment with the help of specialised world agencies including the United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP).

He said that the recently adopted law on the protection of the environment reflects the Kingdom's commitment to dealing with the dangerous elements of pollution, ensuring appropriate and safe utilisation of energy and natural resources and dealing with the dangers posed to the environment in general.

Environment Corporation Director General Saleh Share said that his office supervises the dumping of solid and other waste materials in various parts of the country and monitors the process of dumping waste.

The corporation has recently focused on ensuring a safe atmosphere for Jordan through monitoring the quality of air, especially in the main cities and industrial estates mainly Amman, Aqaba, Fuheis, Ruseifeh and Al Hashemieh where pollution was found to be high.

Furthermore, the corporation continues to give due attention to and give advice against the use of materials that tend to deplete the ozone layer in cooperation with concerned world organisations.

The world environment day was marked in more than 100 countries around the world to focus global attention on environmental action and awareness.

Khleifat pushes to amend CDD law

AMMAN (Petra)— Minister of Interior Awad Khleifat Wednesday criticised the present Civil Defence Department (CDD) law saying that, in its present form, it does not help the Kingdom's civil defence authorities to cater to the requirements of industrial and economic growth in Jordan.

Speaking at a meeting by the Higher Civil Defence Council (HCDC) attended by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tubeishat, Dr. Khleifat said that the law, which has been in force since 1959, should be amended in a manner that would enable the CDD to cater to the needs of industry and economic development.

Dr. Khleifat, who is also HCDC chairman, said the country is in need of updated amendments that would close gaps which appeared during the practical application of the law over the past years.

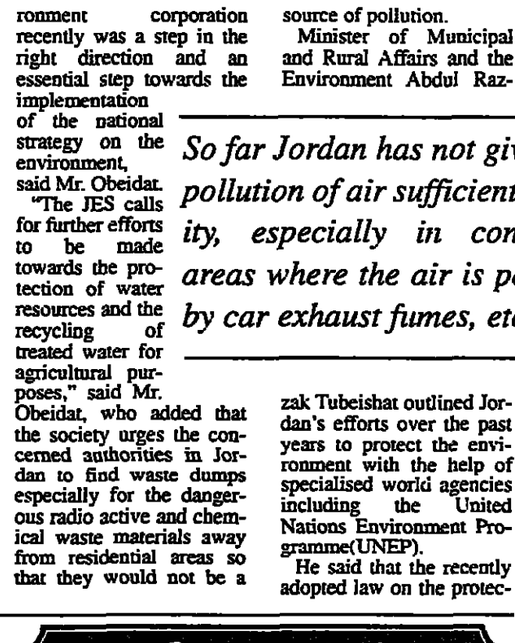
He said also that the most of the powers included in the present law fall under the jurisdiction of the HCDC which does not have a general secretariat to follow up on the implementation of its decisions. In addition, he said, this law restricts the CDD's movements when its services are urgently required

He also demanded that a general secretariat be created for the council to record and follow up decisions and plans and coordinate the council's work with its sub-branches in the various governorates and with the ministries and various departments as well as prepare a new emergency budget which would be at the disposal of the council's chairman in time of need.

Dr. Khleifat urged the various government and private institutions to cooperate closely with the CDD and the school children, youth clubs and charitable organisations to get training in civil defence work and first aid to help the civil defence authorities with their work.

He said that the council plans to hold another meeting in August in order to review a draft law which the Ministry of Interior is currently preparing to replace the present law.







1 killed, 100 hurt in Bangladesh election

DHAKA (R) — Bangladeshis voted in large numbers in the country's second parliamentary election in four months Wednesday, but the polling was marred by scattered violence that killed one person and injured nearly 100.

Voting closed at 4 p.m (1000 GMT) and counting of ballots began immediately. Final results from the 300 constituencies were expected by Friday.

Witnesses and poll officials said turnout was heavy and they expected at least 70 per cent of the more than 56 million registered voters to have cast ballots.

Despite the violence, a senior police officer described the incidents as "fewer than feared" and said voting in most of the country was largely peaceful and disciplined.

A smooth election followed by a result that is accepted by the main contenders for power would be an encouraging boost for democracy in a nation that has spent much of its 25 years of independence under military rule.

"We are not apprehensive of violence during voting but we are afraid of violence when the losing party would refuse to accept the results," said a government official.

Among the first to vote in the capital Dhaka was Golam Azam, leader of the right-wing Jamaat-E-Islami party, who cast his ballot in a Bangladeshi election for the first time.

"I am delighted to be able to exercise my citizen's right for the first time in independent Bangladesh," he told reporters.

Mr. Azam opposed Bangladesh's 1971 independence from Pakistan and lived abroad until 1987 when he returned and regained his citizenship after a long court battle.

Wednesday's election was called after a vote in February was boycotted by opposition parties led by the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina.

Political analysts expect the race between the BNP and the Awami League to be close.

A third group, the Jatiya (National) Party, led by jailed former President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, is likely to hold the balance in the event of a hung parliament.

Foreign election observers monitoring the elections in Bangladesh Wednesday said their preliminary impressions about the polling process were positive.

"We saw no evidence of any kind of malpractice on the basis of our own observations here in the city," said Cayetana De Zulueta, an Italian MP and head of the 29-member European Union Election Commission.

"We had a good impression in the 20 polling stations that we visited," Zulueta told AFP. "There was no tension and (there was) a high turn-out as far as we could tell."

A senior government source said repolling would be held where voting had been stopped because of unruliness or vote rigging.

"My experience was positive," said Colleen Beaumier, a Canadian member of parliament, who visited six polling centres outside Dhaka. "It seemed to be absolutely free and fair in those areas."

"The presence of international observers prevented any problems from occuring. I believe our presence (in Bangladesh) may have diverted anticipated problems," Ms. Beaumier added.

Niaz Naik, a former Pakistani foreign secretary and member of the 40-member non-government South Asian group said: "Everything went peacefully in the Gazipur areas I visited.

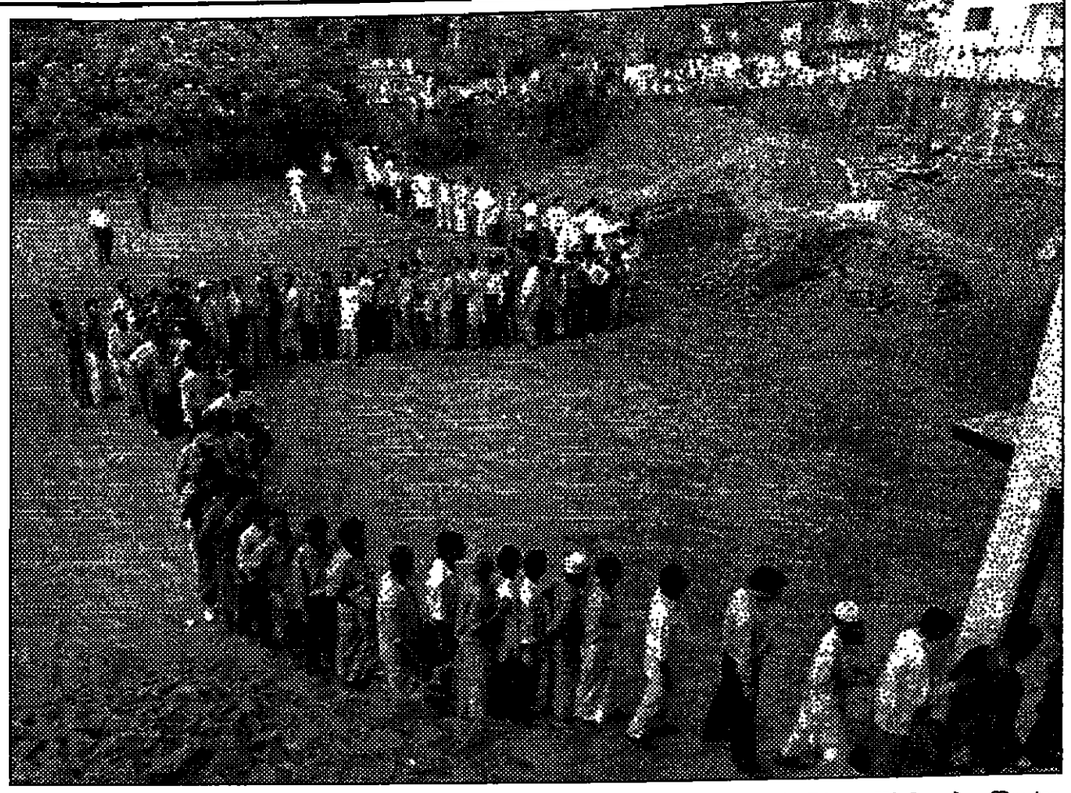
"There were no complaints from any side. The elections seemed to be free, fair and festive," Mr. Naik said.

About 160 foreign observers monitored the elections here, joined by about 100 Dhaka-based diplomats and 3,000 local observers.

All observer groups are expected to make formal statements Thursday. Many of them will travel overnight to the capital from far-flung areas.

A European diplomat, who visited four polling centres here, said the polling was "very organised and we witnessed no problems."

Many observers said they were impressed by the large number of women voters.



Bangladeshi voters stand in a winding queue to cast their votes at a polling station in Dhaka Wednesday (Reuter photo)

Shopping centre explosion in Brazil kills 39, injures 380

SAO PAULO (AFP) — At least 39 people died and 380 were injured when a ceiling collapsed after an explosion in a shopping centre in the Sao Paulo area, fire officials said.

The blast, which occurred around 1:00 p.m. (1600 GMT) Tuesday in Osasco, a suburb of the capital, was apparently caused by a gas leak, said Sao Paulo Fire Department official Jair Pacca De Lima.

The tragedy happened in the shopping centre's food court, where bars and restaurants are located.

He said rescue crews aided by bright lights provided by the army would continue the grim task of searching through the rubble for bodies during the night, but that there was no realistic chance of finding more survivors.

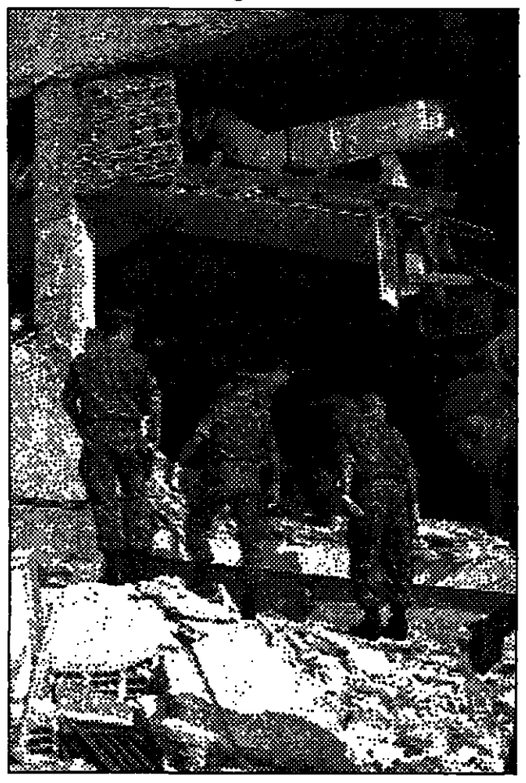
"Finding someone alive at this point would be a miracle," Mr. Pacca De Lima told reporters, adding that rescue crews would be working around the clock for the next 48 hours.

Another fire official said that as of late Tuesday fire fighters, police, military personnel and volunteers had scoured about 60 per cent of the accident site.

Two people were arrested on charges of looting, police said.

Most of the 39 fatalities occurred during the explosion and subsequent cave-in, but 14 people died at Osasco Regional Hospital, where some 100 seriously injured people were taken.

A further three people died at the central first aid facility, where another 250 victims were being treated, Civil Defence officials said.



Soldiers search through debris after an explosion tore through a shopping mall crowded with lunchtime shoppers Tuesday (Reuter photo)

Around 380 people were injured in the blast and cave-in.

So far, 18 bodies taken to the city morgue have been identified by relatives, and a list of all the dead and injured was distributed late Tuesday by city officials.

The mayor's office has called for a day of mourning for those killed in the accident.

Most of the victims were young people who were at the shopping centre looking for gifts for Valentine's Day, which in Brazil falls on Wednesday, June 12, health officials said.

At the time of the blast there were around 2,000 people inside the 200-store shopping centre. Most of the shoppers were having lunch in the food court, police said.

A preliminary investigation by experts has determined that a gas leak was the likely cause of the devastating explosion.

Chinese vessels intercept Greenpeace

ABOARD THE MV GREENPEACE (R) — Chinese officials boarded the environmentalist motor vessel Greenpeace Wednesday after intercepting the ship and its anti-nuclear activists and ordering it to leave Chinese waters.

The officials appeared friendly and shook hands with some of the 32 passengers and crew from 16 nations aboard the Greenpeace, which had just dropped anchor at Chang Jiang Kou — or Mouth of the Yangtze River — about 55 miles from Shanghai.

The officials, some with camouflage-type uniforms and others in white, boarded the Greenpeace from four boats that had earlier identified themselves as harbour pilot vessels.

No force was used and no weapons were visible.

The officials met Greenpeace Captain Ulf Brigander and Greenpeace spokesman Xavier Pastor, along with two translators, but the outcome of their discussions was not immediately clear.

China has previously made it clear the Greenpeace voyage, part of a campaign aimed at persuading China to halt nuclear weapons tests, is unwelcome and said the vessel was barred from entering Shanghai.

"Please stop this illegal act and leave our waters. This is a violation of international law," a radio message from one of the Chinese vessels said earlier as the Greenpeace was intercepted.

Clinton unhurt after plane hits heavy turbulence

ON BOARD AIR FORCE ONE (R) — Pre-sident Bill Clinton's plane hit severe turbulence over Texas Tuesday, sending people flying out of their seats, smashing dishes and splattering food on the walls.

Mr. Clinton, who was sitting in an armchair and reading in his office on board Air Force One, was not hurt during the incident, which occurred near Lubbock, Texas, said White House spokesman Mike McCurry.

Only one person was injured on the flight from Albuquerque, New Mexico to Charleston, South Carolina — a Secret Service agent who cut his hand slightly.

Dressed in denim jeans and a long-sleeved T-shirt, Mr. Clinton walked through the plane shortly after the turbulence, which was caused by flying near electrical storms in the area, to check on the 46 passengers and 26 crew members on board.

"It was certainly a character builder, wasn't it?" Mr. Clinton said to reporters on the plane. "I was holding on, I was holding on," he added, laughing.

The turbulence lifted people at the back of the plane up to three feet (one metre) out of their seats and sent dishes smashing against the walls of the plane, a specially equipped Boeing 747.

The Secret Service agents appeared to suffer most from the turbulence, which sent food flying through their cabin and onto their clothes.

Mr. Clinton was seated in an armchair without his seatbelt buckled when the first jolt hit, Mr. McCurry said. He quickly belted himself in before the second jolt, which was strong enough to throw one person at the back of the plane out of his seat and into the ceiling.

"(Clinton) was safely in his seat and he was reading at the time. He didn't get thrown out," Mr. McCurry said, adding that the president had not yet been served anything to eat or drink.

Many people on the plane were shaken up by the turbulence, which is unusual on Air Force One, but Mr. McCurry, who was with the president when it occurred, appeared unruffled.

"I was sitting in there with my drink and managed to catch it when it came back down," the spokesman said. "The last time I saw that was in a Bugs Bunny cartoon."

Dole appears to rule out Powell as running mate

WASHINGTON (R) — Presumptive Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole all but ruled out retired Gen. Colin Powell as his running mate Tuesday in November's U.S. Presidential election, but said the former head of the military Joint Chiefs of Staff could play a foreign policy role in a Dole administration.

"I think General Powell meant it when he said he is not interested in elective office in 1996," Sen. Dole said in an interview taped for the ABC programme, Nightline.

Gen. Powell has repeatedly said he would not run this year but some Republicans had thought it might be an offer he could not refuse if Sen. Dole asked him to be his vice presidential candidate.

"I think Colin Powell, if I'm any judge, meant what he said at his press conference this year. He took a look at the presidency, he thought about it, he pondered, he studied and he decided no way, no elective office in 1996," Sen. Dole said.

Asked if he would like to see Gen. Powell in his administration, Sen. Dole replied "well yes. The answer is yes. I certainly would and I'm very proud that he's a Republican."

Sen. Dole, who quit his Senate post Tuesday to focus on the campaign for the November election, agreed that Gen. Powell's foreign policy and military experience would qualify him for the job of secretary of state or defence.

"I mean, worlds of experience, that would bring instant credibility to any administration," Sen. Dole told ABC.

Meanwhile, influential Republican right-wingers vowed Tuesday to fight Sen. Dole's conciliatory new gesture toward abortion-rights advocates and said his move could provoke a bruising battle at the Republican convention.

The prospective Republican presidential nominee sparked a furor Monday by saying he wants a "declaration of tolerance" for those who support abortion rights added to a longstanding statement opposing abortion in the party's campaign platform.

"I think I make that decision. It's not negotiable ... and it is going to be in the plank. It's probably going to be in the abortion plank," Sen. Dole said in an interview with CNN.

"It seems to me you want to make it clear to the people out there that we are tolerant. This is a moral issue. It is not like all the other things in the platform and it ought to be right up there where people can see it," he said.

This stand, which seemed to catch even Sen. Sole's supporters and advisers by surprise, went well beyond his previous call for tolerance on the issue in the interest of party unity.

Most hardline anti-abortion Republican leaders had grudgingly accepted that stand since it was general in nature.

But the new comment clearly upset that delicate balance.

Pat Buchanan, an uncompromising abortion foe who finished second to Sen. Dole in the primaries, indicated he will oppose him on this at the Aug. 12-15 convention that will formally award Sen. Dole the Republican presidential nomination.

Mr. Buchanan, like other Republican conservatives, had supported Sen. Dole's original "declaration of tolerance" so long as it went only into the general preamble of the platform and thus applied to all issues, not just abortion.

"A declaration of tolerance for the idea that a woman has a right to choose whether to destroy her unborn child in the womb entails the negation, and destruction of, our party's pro-life stand," Mr. Buchanan said in a statement Tuesday.

"Any such declaration of moral equivalence between pro-life and pro-abortion will be resisted at San Diego with all the resources at our command," he said.

A source close to Mr. Buchanan said "the abortion fallout from Dole may lead Pat Buchanan to go third-party," meaning he might launch a divisive independent presidential campaign.

As a measure of the potential conflict, Representative Henry Hyde — an Illinois Republican, Dole ally and chairman of the convention's platform committee — said he wants the tolerance position in the preamble, not as part of the anti-abortion plank as Sen. Dole had said.

On Tuesday Sen. Dole said goodbye to the U.S. Senate with a lump in his throat Tuesday, ending a 35-year congressional career with fond reminiscences, flashes of wit and a struggle with his emotions.

Sen. Dole resigned effective at 2 p.m. edt to devote full time to his uphill presidential campaign against Bill Clinton, and he stood to speak for the last time as the longest-serving Republican leader — 11 years — in Senate history.

Addressing a packed chamber after members of both parties had extolled his virtues and his record, his voice faltered as he called up memories.

"The Bible tells us, 'to every thing there's a season', and I think my season in the Senate is about to come to an end," he said with difficulty on one of those occasions. "But the new season before me makes this moment far less the closing of one chapter than the opening of another."

In Glendale, California, Mr. Clinton asked an audience of students to applaud Sen. Dole.

"I would like to ask all of you, including those of you who are my supporters, to just take a moment and wish him well," the president said.



Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole and his wife Elizabeth leave the U.S. Capitol Tuesday. The Republican from Kansas ended 35 years in the Senate when he formally resigned his seat to turn his full attention to his presidential campaign. Lieutenant Governor Sheila Frahm will replace Sen. Dole as Kansas' next U. S. senator (Reuter photo)

Dispute over Cousteau name is settled

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Famed French oceanographer Jacques Cousteau and an organisation he founded said Tuesday they had settled a legal dispute with his son over the use of the Cousteau name on a Fiji Islands resort. The 85-year-old explorer and the Cousteau Society, a non-profit environmental group, sued Jean-Michel Cousteau and his business partner in September 1995 claiming trademark infringement and unfair business practices in their use of the Cousteau name to advertise the resort. As part of the settlement, Jean-Michel Cousteau and business partners agreed to add Jean-Michel's first name to the resort to avoid confusion.

Dudley Moore sues to divorce 4th wife

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actor and comedian Dudley Moore Tuesday filed for divorce from his fourth wife — the woman he allegedly abused a month before their wedding. British-born Moore, 61, who has been married three times previously, cited "irreconcilable differences" for the breakup of his marriage to Nicole Rothschild, 29 years his junior. The petition, filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, said the couple, who married on April 16, 1994, had been separated since May 27 this year. Moore gained fame when he starred opposite Bo Derek in the 1979 comedy 10 and was nominated for a best actor Oscar for his 1981 role as a boozy millionaire in Arthur.

Clinton is serious when it comes to playing golf

WASHINGTON (R) — Like the proverbial mail-man, neither rain nor snow nor dark of night stops President Bill Clinton from playing golf. He heads for the links every chance he gets and works hard to shave strokes off his score. When the sun shines, reporters wonder if Mr. Clinton will grab his clubs and jump into the limo to find a nearby golf course — a journey he typically makes six times a month. But the same urge has been known to strike when it is raining or snowing. Even darkness is only an inconvenience. Long after the sun has set, Mr. Clinton will work his way along fairways with the help of a strobe light.

Fender to make upside-down Jimi Hendrix guitars

LOS ANGELES (R) — Thirty years after left-handed Jimi Hendrix played his way to fame on an upside-down guitar, the Fender guitar company said it will make a replica bearing the late rock star's name. Fender Musical Instruments and the Hendrix estate said special Jimi Hendrix guitar editions will be released this fall and next spring. Hendrix played a white electric fender stratocaster upside-down because he was left-handed.

Major slams lottery money awards to gays

London (R) — British Prime Minister John Major Tuesday condemned the award of National Lottery money to charities helping bisexuals, gay police officers and prostitutes. Speaking in parliament, Mr. Major expressed concern that the boards distributing millions of pounds raised each week from Britain's hugely successful lottery "from time to time make awards that are ill-founded and ill-judged. A small number do not in my judgment reflect the way parliament and the public expected lottery money to be spent," Mr. Major said at question time.

Two more Burma democracy politicians quit party

RANGOON (R) — Two more elected representatives of Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) have resigned from the opposition party, bringing the total of recent resignations to seven, Burmese official media said Wednesday.

Sein Maung and Han Tha Myint, both NLD members elected as representatives in a 1990 general election, submitted their resignations saying they no longer wanted a role in party politics, state-run newspapers said.

The newspapers said the resignations were accepted by the Multiparty Democracy General Election Commission, which was in charge of the 1990 election that the NLD won by a landslide.

The ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), which took power in 1988 after crushing pro-democracy demonstrations, called the election but never recognised the results and the NLD, which won 392 of 485 seats in contention, was never allowed to take power.

The resignations come following weeks of rumours that many NLD members may step down.

More than 250 NLD members, most of them elected representatives, were arrested in mid-May in a crackdown on democracy politicians ahead of a controversial party congress.

The SLORC said it had not arrested the NLD members, but only detained them for questioning to avoid "anarchy" that might have resulted from the congress.

The government released the politicians after about 10 days of detention.

Ms. Suu Kyi said afterwards some of them had been forced to sign letters promising they would quit the party.

But she told a crowd gathered outside her house soon after the May 26-29 party congress the NLD would not hold the members to any resignations signed while they were in detention.

Opposition sources said some NLD representatives had talked about stepping down because they did not agree with the tougher stance the party was taking.

After the party congress, Ms. Suu Kyi said the NLD would step up the momentum in its efforts for democracy. Among other projects, the party planned to write an alternative constitution to the one being drawn up by a SLORC-appointed convention.

Since then, the SLORC has passed a new law prohibiting anyone or any organisation from writing an alternative constitution.

Separately, the government continued its attack on Ms. Suu Kyi in state-run newspapers, urging her in a commentary to go back to England and leave the fight for democracy.

"It is time Ma Suu came to understand the attitude and the real desire of the Myanmar (Burmese) public," a commentary said, referring to Ms. Suu Kyi in a disrespectful manner.

"If so she should abandon the existing ways of her being under foreign influence to cause disintegration of the state and to return peacefully to her family in London."

"Ma Suu please go back. Democracy does not mean power."

Ms. Suu Kyi is married to British academic Michael Aris, and they have two sons. Aris and the sons live in England, where Ms. Suu Kyi lived for several decades before returning to Burma in 1988 to care for her ailing mother.



A Pakistani woman is transported to a local hospital in Hyderbad June 12. At least 21 people were killed and 25 injured when a building collapsed in the southern Pakistani city of Hyderabad. Many victims were women and children who were sleeping inside when the building caved in (Reuter photo)

22 die in Pakistan building collapse

KARACHI (AFP) — At least 22 people were killed and 40 injured when a three-storey building collapsed as they slept in southern Pakistan's Hyderabad city Wednesday, officials and rescue workers said.

Army engineers equipped with cranes joined a massive rescue operation mounted by police, paramilitary troops and volunteers.

Security forces cordoned off the area while ambulances rushed casualties to hospitals where an emergency was declared, witnesses said.

Shops and markets were closed in Hyderabad, 160 kilometres north of here, following the tragedy, residents said.

The survivors were shifted to a nearby building, where wailing women beat their heads and chests in mourning, witnesses said.

Officials said the 55-year-old building caved in around dawn with a big thud, creating panic in the area.

Neighbours rushed to the spot as people trapped under tonnes of concrete screamed for help.

Rescue workers said they had retrieved the bodies of 12 children, five women and five men from the dilapidated building occupied by around 80 people.

Those affected were mostly poor vendors or small contractors.

Residents said 14 families lived in the building which was divided into a number of small apartments. The occupants were all close relatives.

Sind Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah who visited the site and met the injured in hospital, termed the incident as "terrible and unfortunate."

He also announced cash compensation for the victims.

Around 40 of the injured were taken to hospitals and doctors said several were in a critical condition. A search for more bodies feared trapped under the debris was still on, they said.

"All-out efforts are being made to rescue the people who are under the debris," an official said.

A witness told AFP by telephone that the scene looked as if the structure had been "bulldozed."

The mishap took place at about 5:30 a.m (0030 GMT), residents said. Most of the male members of the affected families were either sleeping outside the building because of a power breakdown during the night, or had gone to the mosques for dawn prayers, residents said.

"I thought it was an earthquake and rushed towards my house soon after the prayers. A huge cloud of dust had covered the building," said Shamim Khan, an inmate of the ill-fated building.

"But everything was lost. My two uncles and their three children were all dead. I recognised the children from their clothes," Mr. Khan told AFP by telephone from the office of the private Edhi Trust Welfare Organisation which arranged funerals for the victims.

Some residents said the overnight rainfall might have caused the mishap, but officials said the collapse was the result of deep excavation in an adjacent plot whose owner wanted to put up a building with a basement.



Pakistani army officials and volunteers search through the sight of a building collapse in Hyderabad Wednesday, 150 kilometres from Karachi. At least 21 people were killed and more than 25 injured (Reuter photo)

17 SAS soldiers killed in Australia helicopter crash

SYDNEY (AFP) — At least 17 elite soldiers and aircrew died and 11 were injured Wednesday when two helicopters crashed and burned during an anti-terrorist training mission in Northern Australia, a Defence Department spokesman said.

The two Blackhawk helicopters collided in darkness outside Townsville in Queensland.

"There are 17 killed and 11 wounded in hospital. But these figures can change," defence force spokesman Brigadier Adrian D'Hage told AFP.

The two Blackhawks collided while travelling at 60-90 knots, crashing about 50 metres to the ground, he said.

Both burst into flames on impact, he said.

The helicopters were reportedly carrying a crew of four and 10 Special Air Service (SAS) regiment troops who were to practice roping, rappelling and recovery as part of counter-terrorist training.

They were engaged in an exercise focusing on recovering people from the tops of buildings which the troops carry out in the bush because of the noise it makes, he said.

Brig. D'Hage declined to speculate on the cause of the accident at the remote High Range training area, west of Townsville, saying a full inquiry would be carried out.

Lieutenant Colonel Andy Reynolds of the Defence Department said it was believed to be Australia's worst peacetime military training accident since 82 men died in the collision of two naval ships in 1964.

The crash was the second major accident involving Australia's Blackhawk helicopters within four years. One was lost in an accident in June 1992.

The Australian army acquired 39 Blackhawks between February 1988 and January 1991.

Although manufactured by Sikorsky in the U.S., most of those in Australian army service were assembled at the Hawker Dehavilland plant in Sydney.

Some of the Blackhawk fleet were reported to have been grounded awaiting essential spares with as few as half a dozen operational at some stages. The problem was expected to have been overcome by now.

Similar problems were also experienced by U.S. defence users.

The SAS is an elite unit.

Modelled on the British SAS regiment, the Australian regiment was formed in 1957, and shares the British unit's motto of "who dares wins," along with their sand-coloured beret and winged dagger insignia.

They form Australia's last-resort counter-terrorism force and will play a role in security for the Sydney 2000 Olympics Games.

SAS troopers operating in patrols of six men and are trained in free-fall parachuting, helicopter insertion and amphibious and submarine-based operations.

They have played a leading role in the resolution of almost every recent counter-terrorism exercise in Australia.

SAS troops are known within the army as the "chicken stranglers" — for their ability to live off the land during weeks-long patrols behind enemy lines.

There are around 500 SAS troops in three Sabre Squadrons based in Perth.

Two other SAS soldiers are known to have died in accidents during counter-terrorist training with live ammunition since 1980.



Rescue teams transfer the wounded to Townsville Hospital after two army Blackhawk helicopters collided killing 17 soldiers during anti-terrorist manoeuvres Wednesday. Two U.S. Sikorsky Black Hawk helicopters collided over the bush about 70 kilometres northwest of the trophical city of Townsville, a major army base on the north Queensland coast (Reuter photo)

Thurmond, Warner among winners in 5 primaries

WASHINGTON (R) — South Carolina's Republicans cast a vote of confidence for 93-year-old political legend Sen. Strom Thurmond and Virginia Republican Sen. John Warner easily defeated a conservative challenger as voters in five states cast primary ballots Tuesday.

Sen. Thurmond won 65 per cent of the vote against Harold Worley, 45, who had tried to convince voters the senator was too old for the job. Mr. Worley received 27 per cent.

Sen. Thurmond, whose primary victory was expected, will face in the fall a Democratic political newcomer less than half his age, millionaire businessman Elliot Close, 42.

The most important of the day's primaries was Virginia's Republican Senate race, a bruising battle which was seen as a microcosm of the national battle for the soul of the Republican Party, pitting conservatives against the "country club" establishment Republicans.

With 99 per cent of the vote in, Sen. Warner had 66 per cent to 34 per cent for former Reagan administration Budget Director James Miller.

Mr. Miller conceded the election to Sen. Warner with a veiled slap at the senator's party loyalty.

Sen. Warner won handily despite accusations of treachery from the party's new conservative leaders that he helped defeat Oliver North, the gung-ho ex-Marine implicated in the Iran-contra scandal.

Col. North was the Republican Senate candidate in 1994 and the party squabble helped re-elect Democrat Charles Robb, a son-in-law of former President Lyndon Johnson.

John Warner, a three-term senator with seniority on several key committees, will face Democrat Mark Warner, a millionaire telecommunications executive, in the fall. The two Warners are not related. Mark Warner headed the state Democratic Party.

In Maine, the 1994 candidate for governor, Susan Collins, won the Republican Senate nomination against two rivals whose campaigns were noted for exchange of bitter accusations of sexual misconduct and sleazy campaigning.

Former Governor Joe Brennan was projected to beat four opponents for the Democratic spot.

In Arkansas, Democrats decided between Attorney General Winston Bryant and state Sen. Lu Hardin in a runoff for the right to contest the Senate seat of retiring Democrat David Pryor. Republicans will choose their candidate later.

North Dakota voters focused on a ballot issue on whether to allow video gambling machines in 1,200 restaurants and bars.

Bomb in Spanish court building injures magistrate

MADRID (AFP) — A leading Spanish magistrate whose brief includes terrorism had several fingers blown off in a parcel bomb blast Wednesday believed to be the work of Basque separatists, Interior Ministry officials said.

Police evacuated the offices and courtrooms of Spain's highest criminal court — "Audiencia Nacional" — after the blast in an office at 11:30 a.m. (0930 GMT) to search for other possible suspect devices but reopened the buildings some two hours later.

The magistrate, Jose Antonio Jiménez Alfaro, lost several fingers on one hand and was injured in the face but his life was not in danger, a spokesman at Madrid's Gregorio Maranon Hospital said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility and the Interior Ministry refused to pin the attack on any specific group. But a ministry official who refused to be identified said: "Up until now, the only ones to have carried out this type of attack are ETA."

The parcel had been addressed to Judge Jimenez Alfaro personally, witnesses said, with explosives laced in a hollowed-out book.

Judge Jimenez Alfaro, who was in charge of the court's penal section, handled important cases involving terrorism, drug trafficking, the so-called anti-terrorist liberation groups, which are anti-Basque death squads said to be linked to the previous Socialist government.

Witnesses said the bomb exploded in the judge's fifth-floor office, which was partially destroyed. The courthouse is located in central Madrid.

The bomb-package had to pass through security screening before reaching Judge Jimenez Alfaro's offices and an inquiry was opened immediately to ascertain how the parcel arrived.

Pascual Scala, the president of the Supreme Court, said the inquiry aimed "to check whether or not the scanners were working, or if there was some problem."



Spain's best-known Judge Baltasar Garzon (with glasses) stands along with policemen and officials next to the ambulance carrying judge Jose Antonio Jimenez Alfaro after he was wounded when a letter bomb exploded at his courthouse in central Madrid Wednesday (Reuter photo)

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Right action

IN A RARE display of public outrage at the violation of the country's environment and ecosystem, the residents of Fuheis demonstrated this week protesting that the cement factory was polluting the air they breathe and the environment in which they live. Public protest over non-political issues is indeed a rarity in the Middle East; the fact that the people of Fuheis decided to act against what they perceive as a threat to their health is a good sign even though the answer to the problem at hand is not so simple.

As a matter of fact the cement factory has been taking some measures to alleviate the crisis caused by the location of a major industry in the middle of an urban region. Proper city zoning, a well-developed "science" in many countries, was introduced in Jordan a longtime ago in order to ensure that urban districts are more manageable and liveable. In the case of Fuheis, the location of the cement plant was dictated by the availability of the principal natural resource for producing cement. When the plant was built in the 1960s east of the town, Fuheis was a tiny village. Since then it grew and spread alongside and around the plant. What could have been done is to install right from the beginning the necessary equipment to reduce the rise of dust and other pollutants to manageable proportions. However, the problem is still there and whatever was done appears to be insufficient.

His Majesty King Hussein raised the issue more than a year ago when he wondered if anyone had studied the effect of the huge amounts of dust that emanates from the chimneys of the huge cement plant. The King said then that members of his own family had suffered ill-health from the pollution of the air in the area and called for an effective remedy. Now that the citizens of the affected town have decided to act by demonstrating peacefully against the continued violation of their basic health needs, perhaps the concerned authorities together with the management of the cement factory would introduce the right kind of equipment to the plant in a bid to rectify the problem once and for all. Meanwhile all new building of the houses should be transferred to areas which are less prone to receive pollutants from the factory. In any case, we naturally support the action taken by the people of Fuheis and wish that other cities and towns in the country would defend the environment whenever it is threatened.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE LATEST Hizbollah attack on Israeli troops in Southern Lebanon made a mockery of the so-called security zone along Israel's northern borders and rendered ineffective all Israel's military campaigns inside Lebanon, said Munes Al Razzaz, a writer for **Al Ra'i** daily, Wednesday. The attack, which resulted in the death of five Israeli soldiers and the injury of six others, has proved once again that Israel can by no means enjoy peace and security while at the same time maintaining its occupation of Arab territories, stressed the writer. Indeed, this latest attack, which occurred despite the Israeli-Hizbollah ceasefire agreement concluded in April, is a clear message to the Jewish state's premier-elect Benyamin Netanyahu that resistance attacks will continue as long as Israel occupies Lebanese territory, he added. The writer said that no matter who assumes power in Israel and regardless of the aggressive nature of the Israeli army, the armed struggle against Israeli forces are bound to continue; and if Netanyahu refuses to change his mind about escalating the campaigns against the resistance, his troops and the Israeli society as a whole will continue to be targeted by suicide attacks. He said that Israel can avoid this kind of war of attribution by simply withdrawing from all the occupied lands, in compliance with U. N. resolutions.

WHILE EXPRESSING hope that the Arab leaders, in their coming summit meeting in Cairo, will arrive at a minimum level of coordination among themselves concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict, a writer for **Al Ra'i** daily said the heads of state have a very difficult task at hand. The Arab leaders are expected to keep the door open for contacts with the new Israeli government in response to a call by the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher despite Israel's adamant position concerning the Jerusalem question, the Jewish settlements and the withdrawal from Arab lands, he said. However, agreement among the leaders vis-à-vis these chronic issues has no great chance of success because they still seem divided as a result of the Gulf war despite strenuous efforts, particularly on the part of Egypt, to contain these differences, according to the writer. Furthermore, it was the emergence of Netanyahu as premier in the Jewish state and his declared policies concerning the Golan Heights that brought the Arab leaders together, rather than the issue of Jerusalem, he added. The writer said that the exclusion of Iraq from the summit means that the Arabs are far from agreement on internal issues, and therefore it would take a miracle to make them agree on external affairs as well as a mechanism to reach a final settlement with Israel on all tracks.

The View from Academia

Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

The Great Arab Revolt and the great Arab dream

THE ANNIVERSARY of the Great Arab Revolt (last Monday) is an occasion for both celebration and assessment. Celebration because many of the ideals envisioned upon and since the launching of the great uprising have either been realised or on the way to being realised; assessment because much still needs to be done before the whole dream comes true.

Two points need to be stated from the outset. The first is that — as obvious from much of the literature about the event (take for instance His Majesty King Hussein's speech in New York a couple of days ago and the Crown Prince Hassan's article published in the local press last Monday) — the event was not simply thought of as a rebellion against the injustices and oppressive measures of the then dictatorial Turks but as an attempt to restore to the Arabs (at least the eastern part of the Arab Nation) the many basic human rights which had been denied them and the central role they have been deprived of.

The aim, as the King's and Crown Prince's pieces make clear, is the launching of an all-encompassing Arab Renaissance in the spheres of politics, economics, social progress, human rights, religion and ideology. There was a sense that the Arab-Islamic Nation had fallen, and there was a need therefore to bring about a categorical change in the life of the nation as a whole.

The second is that the Great Arab Revolt is not a historical event which attempted against all odds to realise the dreams and ideals of the Arab peoples and which partly succeeded and partly failed, due to insurmountable global (and later inter-Arab) obstacles. Rather, it is a process which was launched on June 10, 1916, though it had become deeply entrenched in the Arab psyche decades (if not centuries) before. Seen as a process, the Arab Revolt is far from over. It is still with us, partly in the form of the modern Jordan which is and partly in the form of the Jordan to be.

In the form of modern Jordan, much has been achieved in both the letter and spirit of things. One can say a lot in this respect: about its moderate, middle-ground, reconciliatory, common-sensical, practical, reasonable and unpretentious conception and position vis-à-vis its own role, vis-à-vis links with the Arab brethren and vis-à-vis its relation with other nations.

It is indeed miraculous for a country which found itself amidst regional and global turbulence to have kept the spirit of moderation, middle-groundness, reconciliation, common-sense, etc. From the start, and up until now, Jordan has successfully (though not always easily) avoided and rejected extremism in all its forms when circumstances from the beginning of the century have aimed at nothing but the encouragement of extremism. Such spirit of moderation is reflected in almost all aspects of the Jordanian state: in politics, religion, economics, education, daily life, and so forth. In all of these, it is neither extremely conservative nor extremely liberal. At this point in history, this seems to be the best approach.

Much can also be said about the country's pluralism, democracy and spirit of freedom. The Jordanian society is immensely diverse, ethnically, demographically, geographically and religiously. Such diversity is immensely respected, protected, and catered to — especially since the introduction of democratic life in 1989. In its protection of diversity and pluralism, Jordan is almost a unique phenomenon in the region. Freedom, at almost all levels, has also been recently felt. Take freedom of expression, for example. In the media, writers and commentators (those who have something profound to say and those who do not, those who make constructive criticism and those who do not, etc.) have been debating issues which are next to impossible to debate in many of our neighbouring regions.

The Jordanian society is also fairly open and open-minded about new ideas. We feel this in private and (to a lesser extent) public education, in business, in social habits, in styles of life, in food, etc.

Jordan is also keenly aware of its central role and ties with the rest of the Arab World and shows a great deal of respect to the wishes, needs, desires and aspirations of the Arab Nation. Before it takes a step of any sort, it ponders profoundly on its implications on relations with Arab states. It takes Arab solidarity and Arab integration seriously. It is significant that it did not work out an agreement with Israel until Egypt and the Palestinians had done so. Jordan could have done it first. It is also significant that during the Gulf war, Jordan kept insisting on an Arab-Arab solution to the crisis. This is a spirit it inherited from the Great Arab Revolt — notice that it is an "Arab" movement.

All of this must be admitted, and Jordan ought to be encouraged to continue on the path begun in 1916.

I say "to continue" but much needs to be done still. While there is, fortunately, very little to cover at the level of intention, ideal, theory and policy, there is ample room for improvement and development at the level of implementation, application and realisation of the various projects which are meant to make Jordan an effective modern state and an example to others in the region.

Much needs to be done at the level of institutionalisation. Many of our institutions are either too lenient and lax or too rigid and inflexible, depending on who is in charge; the person at the head of the institution is more powerful than the institution. The decisions taken at many of our institutions are not collectively made. Many of our establishments (in the public and the private sectors) do poor, fair and (at best) good work, but not very good or excellent. Some of them, which are supposed to be doing crucial work, are merely symbolic. Why is it that we exert a great deal of effort and spend a great amount of money to establish an institution but do not bother much to subject the institution to rigorous, constant (at least periodic) evaluation and assessment?

Our sports teams, our civil servants, our scholars, our teachers, our singers, our motorists, our farmers, our carpenters, our mechanics, our administrators, our poets, our novelists are still either at the level of mediocre in performance or at the level of fair and good. Many of our streets are full of holes, many of our water pipes and sewers still leak constantly, our drinking water is still not up to the standards, and our butter milk and water bottles are impossible to open.

If Jordan, on the basis of the ideals of the Arab Revolt, is to be an example to others in the region (and I believe it should), if it is, in the words of John Winthrop, to be a "city on a hill" for others to look up to and learn from, and if it is to take part in and perhaps even bring about an Arab renaissance (to an Arab World which is almost hopelessly fractionalised, fragmented and disoriented), it has to continue unwaveringly on the path which it has embarked bravely on, toward full pluralism, democracy, human rights and freedom of expression. But it also has to confront the various obstacles and weaknesses courageously.

Jordan is entitled and qualified, potentially and in actuality, to play a central role in the rise of the Arab Nation which has long fallen and slumbered.

If Netanyahu sticks to his promises, war could be the result

By William Pfaff

PARIS — An astonishingly large part of the discussion of Israel's policy options, particularly in American circles, seems to assume that the new prime minister, Benyamin Netanyahu, can do as he pleases in security matters. The Arab reaction is not a constraint.

Mr. Netanyahu's campaign promised peace plus security, with no concessions to the Arabs. He said that Israel would keep the Golan Heights; keep the existing colonies on the West Bank — including Hebron's — or even expand them; reenter Gaza if that seemed useful, and also stop Hamas suicide bombings inside Israel and the shelling of Israeli villages by Islamic militants in southern Lebanon.

His opponent, Shimon Peres, was merely promising peace, acknowledging that this would have to be paid for by territorial and political concessions to the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Syria.

Mr. Peres and his predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin, had already taken a dangerous line with respect to the PLO. They yielded Yasser Arafat enough — barely — to keep him a negotiating partner, but not enough really to satisfy the Palestinians.

The Israeli objective was an autonomous but essentially powerless Palestinian entity, wrapped in Israeli military power, incorporating protected Jewish colonies, economically dependent upon Israel — an Israeli client-state, or a client shared between Israel and Jordan. They were coming very close to getting this.

Mr. Netanyahu wants more. Most discussion, at least in circles sympathetic to the Likud Party, takes for granted that he can get more. This is not true. He cannot do so without totally discrediting the PLO, which would be dangerous to Israel.

If all PLO plausibility is destroyed, Palestinians in and around Israel will be driven toward that desperate and nihilistic struggle wanted by those in the Arab World who from the beginning have condemned the so-called peace process, insisted that Israel would never go through with it and demanded struggle to the death against Israel (and the United States).

The austere and independent Hebrew-language daily Ha'aretz wrote last week that if Israel's new government does not fulfill the promises of its predecessor to complete Israel's withdrawal from Hebron and release more political prisoners, or if Mr. Netanyahu does as he has said he would do and eliminates the PLO presence in Jerusalem, the PLO will have no reason not to renounce its promises as well. Indeed, its political survival could depend on renouncing them, breaking off cooperation with Israel.

Why should Yasser Arafat's police force continue to cooperate with Israel in hunting down Hamas, as it has been doing? Ha'aretz notes that if Israel should reenter Gaza, to run down terrorists, its army would find that "there now are more than 20,000 armed Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. That means there would be war." In that eventuality, the relative insecurity of the last weeks of the Peres government might look good to Israeli citizens.

The sometimes overlooked aspect of this affair is that Mr. Netanyahu was not elected by people who in their majority are hostile to "the peace process," or to some peace process.

The issue was security, not peace with the Arabs. People wanted the one without losing the other. They thought that by voting against the "peace process" as conducted by Mr. Peres, they would have both security and peace.

But a crucial underlying issue was social, even cultural in the American political sense, as the new prime minister and his American campaign advisers understood. There was a paradox in what happened. The American-influenced Mr. Netanyahu, and his American minders, with hyper-Americanised campaign tactics and advertisements, mobilised that part of the Israeli public that most hates and fears what may be called the "Americanisation" of Israel.

The coalition that defeated Shimon Peres is described by the Israeli mass-market daily Yedioth Ahronoth as made up not only of religious voters and expansionists but those "who feel forgotten, cut off from modern Israel's society," who see the Labour Party and the left as Israel's "ruling class in politics, culture and economy — domains in which they feel excluded. They are not entirely wrong to do so."

When Yitzhak Rabin's widow said immediately after the election that she felt like packing her bags and leaving Israel, she was unintentionally confirming the existence of this cultural breach in Israel's society.

However, the cultural war is mixed up with what has been a real war with the Arabs. Voting on one front inevitably had consequences, potentially grave ones, on the other front.

Those Israeli voters who refused to trust Israel's security to Mr. Peres because he is a cosmopolitan and Europeanised intellectual, a diplomatic realist, voted instead for the "security" promised by Mr. Netanyahu. But they did this without acknowledging that if Mr. Netanyahu acts as he has promised to act, he will inevitably bring them insecurity, or even war.

International Herald Tribune

LETTERS

Agreements to what?

To the Editor:

AFTER READING Mr. Arafat's statement: "the independent state will be announced soon ... and Mr. Netanyahu promises to respect the agreements," I could not help but wonder what the Palestinian leader takes us for.

I hope he does not think the Palestinian people did not see the contradiction in what he said.

Of course Mr. Netanyahu will respect the agreements, but the fact Mr. Arafat conveniently ignored was that the agreements never guaranteed an independent state. Furthermore, it seems that Mr. Arafat did not comprehend Mr. Netanyahu's refusal of the idea of an independent state in his debate with former Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Statements like the above mentioned can only mean two things. Either Mr. Arafat never actually understood that when he signed the declaration of principles (DOP) he robbed the Palestinians of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence or he thinks we are ignorant and uneducated enough to allow such contradicting statement to pass unnoticed.

Despite the fact that it has been a long time, in the following paragraphs I will try scratch the surface on the injustices in the DOP and the letters exchanged after the signing.

The first point deals with the basis on which the end result is to be achieved. Article 1 of the DOP states that the final stage of the "peace process" is a "permanent settlement based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338." Negotiations based on these two resoslutions only demonstrate how the PLO and Israel completely ignored all other resolutions passed by the all U.N. bodies, in particular Resolution 194, which calls for the compensation and repatriation of Palestinian refugees. Furthermore, the agreement is said to take place in the form of "interim" phases, yet it lacks a mechanism to go from one stage to the next.

Second, the agreement fails to mention the Palestinians not residing in the West Bank and Gaza, living without a state in Lebanon, Syria etc., who make up more than fifty per cent of the Palestinian population. This fact alone raises doubt as to the extent to which the agreement is comprehensive and fair.

Third, careful study of the DOP reveals that the Israeli army can reenter cities it once withdrew from any time they feel Israeli interests are being threatened.

Finally, in the letters exchanged after the signing, Yasser Arafat renounced terrorism and violence. This is in effect an admission of guilt that the PLO was a terrorist organisation; however, the Palestinians and most of the world saw the PLO as a National Organisation for the Liberation of Palestine. Moreover, the PLO's acts of resistance, which were responses to the Israeli occupation, were said to be acts of terror and violence; what a shameful way to describe the history of the Palestinian resistance movement.

People should look beyond the headlines and seek the truth in matters of life and death for us. The truth in this case is unfortunately twisted.

Zaid Qadoumi,
Amman.

Behaviour mutations

To the Editor:

Amman downtown (al balad) would be the perfect centre of analysis to study the changing behaviour of men as spring arrives.

Taking a walk in autumn or winter down the very same streets is not at all the same as going for a stroll at this time of the year.

Going for a walk in the summer can often result in a nightmare event though one does try not to reveal one's "charms", going around dressed in the strictest possible way — long skirts that go down to the ground, tightly buttoned shirts etc...

Despite all these precautions, the same type of dress which only differs from winter as the austere stripes make room to the flowery patterns suddenly become a sensation among the members of the opposite sex.

The devouring looks, the arms that became longer (and in what way!), the hands that when you expect them least touch you skillfully; as one turns around incredulous and amazed to see the face of the shameless impertinent, he is already slipping away like a squirrel among the crowd.

What is wrong with men as spring arrives?
Can they no longer control their passion?
Is it that this season produces mutations in men?

Begoña Alonso y De Paz,
Amman.

Protesting the rules

To the Editor:

Amy Henderson's report "Tour agents challenge new regulations in court, warn against implications for small businesses" (Jordan Times, June 9, 1996) prompts us to make the following comments on this statement of the Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities: "The regulations needed to be revised and we reviewed these measures with the last board of directors of the travel agents' association, which offered no objections, save for one member of the board who withheld his opinion. But I cannot say anymore than this since it is a case before the court."

We would like to clarify that the previous board never agreed, or approved, verbally or in writing; the regulations issued April 1, 1996, in the official gazette, and objected over time, as per letters No. 34/164 and 3/50, dated 6/9/94 and 28/5/95 respectively, submitted to the minister of tourism and antiquities.

We still confirm that the previous board never showed willingness to rise the bank guarantee from JD 5,000 to JD 50,000, as intended for implementation.

Lam'i Haddadein,
President, Jordan Society of Tourism and Travel Agents,
Amman.

Society on the Move

Steady as she goes for the men in blue, land ho for the diplomatic crew

The recent promotions to major general of three senior Public Security Departments Officers were just that — promotions in rank. Maj. Gen. Nimer Hmoud continues in his position as Assistant Director General for Administration, and Maj. Gen. Abdul Raouf Hussein stays on as Assistant Director General for Traffic. Both posts were promotions made effective last March in sweeping changes undertaken by PSD Director General Nasouh Moheiddin, soon after his own assumption of the top police post. For the record, the PSD chief was himself promoted last week to Lieutenant General a was General Intelligence Directorate Chief Samih Bdikhi. Back to the PSD, Maj. Gen. Salman Maaytah emains Inspector General. The promotions to major general were slated to be announced just about this time, say officials and observers, and should not be taken as a signal f possible reorganisation.

REVVING UP IN THE MASHREQ: *It appears that the journalism strategy, training, organisation and networking programme of the European Community, known simply as MedMedia, may be picking up steam again, following the beginning of the year decision to halt operations until internal conflicts could be resolved. The news we have learned is that the BBC World Service's Tudor Lomas has been seconded to MedMedia and will be coming to Amman for one year starting in mid-August as director of the Jemstone in Jordan Project. This regional project will bring European experts to the region for short workshops and offer "far more" on-site trainin and assistance. The Jemstone Project (we have not etermined why the MedMedia folks chose to spell jemstonewith a "j") is designed to be a focus for MedMedia in the rgion and a conduit to its homebase in Brussels. Events planed for the autumn include a radio production master clos in Jerusalem, a feature-writing masterclass, a senic managers workshop at Taybet Zamman, and a jouralists' roundtable in Cairo. Our understanding is that adio Nederland Training Centre and the BBC, both active prtners in MedMedia works, have for a long-time planned tmove their work to Jordan to reward "third countries" for eir involvement in MedMedia objectives. So while other perations — about 70 approved projects for 1996 — remin on hold in Brussels, we can expect only two of them to proceed: one being the Mashreq project under the directorsh of Mr. Lomas. Another similar project involves the Mareb countries.*

SCOUTS TIMES 2 *Meanwhile, Trevor Mostyn, who was a MedMedia progmme coordinator until the decision to put activities on hol, linked up, on a free-lance, temporary consultancy basi, with the Cardiff-based Thomson Foundation. Th NGO was the brainchild of Lord Thomson of Fleetthe owner of many regional newspapers including the Tims of London. Established in 1962, the foundation seeks "support projects to encourage democratic media in pris: radio and T.V. around the world." Mr. Mostyn was in Aman last week with Thomson Foundation Broadcasting Casultant Meirion Edwards to informally scout out what te two Welshmen called the "budget line" of various Jordcian NGOs interested in training for their civic society prects to make them more effective, and how they can utilise e press in relation to that aim. The bottom line for the foudation is to help in making these NGOs effective. Stressing that their contacts in Jordan were strictly informal at this stage, Messrs. Edwards and Mostyn expected that one of them will return again soon to further pursue proposal preparations with the NGOs for submission to the European Union for funding. While they were in the region, the two gentlemen also scouted NGOs in Damascus, Beirut, the Palestine National Authority, Israel and Egypt.*

SO LONG, PARTNERS: *Mission accomplished in Jordan, the Americans are leaving in droves, but most of their replacements have been named and some are already here getting acclimatized to Jordan's summer and the twists and turns of the U.S. Embassy compound. Let us begin with USAID Mission Director William Tom Oliver who will head back to Washington with his wife Tina and their two children to become director of the Food For Peace Programme worldwide, which is based at USAID/Washington. What we know thus far of his replacement is his name — Lew Lucke — and that he is coming from USAID in Bolivia. In the Political Section, Chief Political Counselor William Jordan is scheduled to depart on July 5th and is transferring to Paris with his family. Paris is not a bad place to take a bit of a breather, and that may well be what this is all about. Mr. Jordan's replacement is Roberta Newell, who has been in Jordan studying Arabic for the last nine months. Ms. Newell served as desk officer for Jordan at the State Department before arriving in Amman. Deputy Political Counselor Margot Sullivan left for Washington last week for her new senior posting as special assistant to Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbot. Ms. Sullivan's husband, Administrative Counselor Joseph Huggins, also returned to the State Department to become director of allowances. Ms. Sullivan's replacement arrived in Amman last week. She is Claire Oxley, and has a good 10 years of working in the foreign service in Nigeria, Morocco and at the State Department. She arrived from Tunis where she was studying at the U.S.'s Arabic Language Study Centre. She has arrived with husband Michael Gluck, a Ph.D. in medical engineering who will no doubt explore teaching possibilities around town or further. Over at the US Information Service Jonathan Rice, the cultural affairs officer, bids farewell to Jordan and "howdy" to Abu Dhabi where he will become the public affairs officer. His political scientist wife, Laurie Brand, whom he wed right here in Jordan at Um Qais, is completing some research and will probably join her husband for some more long-distance marital arrangements between the Arab World and the world of academia on the campus of the University of Southern California where she teaches. Mr. Rice's replacement is Susan Ziadeh, a Palestinian-American, who will come here in September from Jerusalem where she is assistant public affairs officer. Also heading out and back to State, is head of the consular section Ray Clore, who has probably met more Jordanians in his nearly three years here than any of his colleagues. All we know of his replacement is that he is named Stephen Maloney. Replacing Press Attaché Vangala "Van" Ram, who departed for Korea, is Stephen Thibeault, who is due in Amman on June 24, semi-crisscrossing with Van, as he will come from Thailand. Meanwhile the press has been fortunate in having Aleta Wenger manning the press attaché's desk in the interim. Ms. Wenger arrived last summer and has since been working in several of the embassy's offices.*

CHEERIO: *Also leaving Jordan this month are some young troops from the British embassy. After about three years of service here, James and Kerry Arroyo and Nick and Cathy Ward say farewell. James Arroyo served as second secretary in the embassy's political section, and his wife Kerry added her talents to the ballet and drama classes at the New English School (NES) as the representative of the British Ballet Organisation (BBO) in Jordan. Kerry ran the dance studio at the NES and the BBO Examinatin Centre in the Kingdom. Stepping into her shoes as BBO representative is Gaynor Price. The Arroyos are off to Cairo this weekend, where James will continue his foreign service career in the political office, again as second secretary. Kerry is expected to contribute her forté, again, either in teaching, community work or both. No replacement has yet been named for Mr. Arroyo. Visa Officer Nick Ward, heads out with his wife Cathy, but for them its back to London where Nick will return to the Immigration Service. Cathy too, leaves the NES, where she taught drama and just helped stage the time-honoured musical "West Side Story." Although information on Mr. Ward's replacement has not yet arrived, we can tell you that his name is Leigh Culver and he is coming from the Immigration Service in London. The Wards plan to leave Amman at the end of this month. With both departures friends and associates say good-bye to two hardworking couples who also had plenty of time for some exciting social activity. In fact, Second Secretary for Political and Economic Affairs Martin Cronin threw another one of his famous "hat" parties to send off the Arroyos and Wards. Word is the evening lived up to the Cronin reputation.*

PHIR MILENGE: *Another couple leaves today. They are Alka and Shariq Ben Raza, who have been in Jordan for more than five years. Alka worked until recently for Mexican Television, in fact she began the network's Amman bureau. Most recently, she was president of the United Nation's Women's Guild of Jordan. Shariq was a senior officer at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). The environment-friendly couple are heading for Nigeria where Mr. Ben Raza will take up a senior position with another U.N. agency, the UN Drug Control Programme. The Ben Razas expect to be back in Amman in the late fall to collect the remainder of their household, so we may just be able to catch up with them in person again.*

A NORDIC NIGHT: *For those of you invited to the June 23 reception in celebration of Norwegian National Day, you will have an opportunity to see Martin Cronin wearing another hat. This time he and his band-buddies in the ever-expanding Azraq Blues Band have been retained by Norwegian Ambassador Tove Kijewski to help mark Norway's Constitution Day, which in actuality falls on May 17. Mrs. Kijewski, however, was out of the country on that date and selected to host her event on the eve of Midsummer Day — Europe's celebration of the summer solstice dating from the pre-Christian times, also called St. John the Baptist's Day, observed by lighting bonfires, especially on mountaintops, dancing around and leaping over fires and other ancient customs. That the invitations note that those who may wish to are welcome to "linger on and celebrate Midsummer's night" may be a sign of things to come. In any case, a happy belated Constitution Day.*



Hilmi Deeb Saleh

PRIZE WINNER WITH A MESSAGE: *Applause is in order for Hilmi Deeb Saleh, a Jordanian youth studying at the University of Munster, in Germany. Hilmi received the Ideal Foreign Studen: Prize from the German Institution for Academic Exchange, better known as DAAD. Hilmi studies biology and is preparing for his Ph.D. He is involved in many campus activities, and is particularly interested in cultural exchange and helping foreign students find ways to resolve their difficulties in adjusting to their new educational environment. He suggests that Arab students in particular should be made aware and take it upon themselves as well to learn about the current social climate in Europe so that they are not too surprised by what they may encounter in terms of dashed expectations. One of his major goals while studying was to make those around him comprehend that the stereotyping of Arabs as terrorists is a bigoted policy which should be addressed and abolished. DAAD, which was established in 1925 and was reformed in 1950, today is considered one of the most distinguished cultural institutions in Germany. It awarded Hilmi DM 2,000. Sehr Gut, Hilmi!*

Jennifer Hamarneh

Beat brother Ferlinghetti says rebellion still rules

By Jude Webber
Reuter

ROME (R)— The beat still goes on for Lawrence Ferlinghetti,even though the big brother of one of the coolest cultral crazes this century is now pushing 80.

The whitehaired U.S. poet, painter and publisher, who put the beageneration on the literary map when he printed Allen Ginserg's controversial poem Howl, wants to be more than st a fossilised icon of 1950s youthful counterculture.

"Most of the artists and writers around today are sound asleep in the face of the coming world cataclysm, political, social andecological," he told Reuters in Rome, where he was opening wo shows of his paintings and line drawings.

"They ougl to wake up and try and save civilisation, save culture."

At 77, Ferlghetti writes by night and draws or paints in his San Francsco studio by day. The problem with being a "beat," he sas, is that people think of you in the past tense.

"The thinghat's wrong with all these beat shows that have been going on — most of them have a cut-off date of 1965 and Kouac's the only one that's dead," Ferlinghetti said.

Jack Kerouc's novel On The Road has become the beat bible, epitomising an urgent quest for escape from conventional daily fe into a fast-lane world of radicalism, spontaneity and fe expression, fuelled by sex, drink and drugs.

Like Neal assady, his friend and inspiration for On The Road, Kerou burnt out and died young. Not so other beat luminaries uch as Ginsberg and novelist William Burroughs.

"Practicall all the others are still alive and writing, creating," Ferlingti said. "It's still a continuing movement. In fact it's still e only rebellion around."

The beat geration took off in 1955 when Ginsberg gave the first publ reading of Howl, a powerful long work that explicitly treed his homosexuality and launched a stinging attack on a s and soulless world.

Ferlinghett who was older than Ginsberg and his friends and admits seemed square compared with them, was there. "But I didn't know them well enough to go out afterwards," he sd.

Born in Ne York in 1919 of an Italian immigrant father and Frenc Portuguese Sephardic Jewish mother, Ferlinghetti rved in the U.S. Navy during the 1944 D-Day landings and tudied for a doctorate at the Sorbonne in Paris after World War II.

"I was outside the whole thing. I was leading a straight life. I was married, living in a conventional house, totally straight. I didn't smoke dope. I didn't take hallucinogenics till years later."

He soon joined in, publishing Howl under the City Lights imprint he had set up in San Francisco with a bookshop of the same name, and defending it in a famous 1957 obscenity trial.

The beat generation got publicity, Ginsberg got off and Ferlinghetti got a reputation for commitment that he later confirmed with peace crusades and poems such as Tyrannus Nix, blasting U.S. President Richard Nixon for the Vietnam War.

His poetry can hit hard but it has a lyrical lightness that he stresses by using simple language and playing with the arrangement of lines on the printed page.

Like one of his earliest and best-known books, A Coney Island Of The Mind, Ferlinghetti recalls his New York youth in the title of his latest work of poetry, A Far Rockaway Of The Heart, which he is due to send to his publisher this autumn.

"Far Rockaway — one subway goes there...It's like where there's some beaches and when I was a kid, to go out to Far Rockaway on a Sunday, I mean that was paradise, like going to Coney Island," he said. "So it's very evocative for me."

Tall and lean with light blue eyes, he is talkative and anecdotal. He laughs easily, has a Bohemian air with his beard and anti-nuclear earring and looks far younger than his age.

He sounds it, though, when he rails against American youth — "you wear your baseball cap backwards...You dye your hair 16 colours, you try to look as ugly as possible" — and postmodern art — "you have a heap of coal in one corner of the gallery and a heap of old clothes in another and half a cow hanging on the wall and that's a show."

The problem, he says, is that culture is under attack.

"The universal television brainwash has completely deadened people," he said. "Television is just one thing. Repressive, brutal states around the world. Consumer society itself. The subjective has effectively been killed."

Ferlinghetti says the beat generation's desire to challenge and rebel explains its enduring appeal. "How long is it since a major painter or novelist in any country has made a powerful statement about what's happening in the world, about anything?"

He claims to have "a really dark view of the future" and says the "constant attack on the subjective and...what is trying to kill the spirit" is well worth rebelling against now.

In any case, the past is only part of the story. One of his Rome exhibitions is called Engaging Mind and features drawings that he only did the week before.

"I don't want to be just a nostalgic old fart mumbling about the good old days," he said.

"I'm not in a glass case yet."



Lawrence Ferlinghetti stands next to books published by City Lights Publications and below one of his paintings inside City Lights Books in San Francisco. The U.S. poet, painter and publisher, who put the Beat Generation on the literary map has just opened two shows of paintings and drawings in Rome (Reuter photo)

Cool summer breeze

By Jean-Claude Elias



ALTHOUGH SUMMER is not here yet, technically speaking, the temperatures that have prevailed this week make us reluctant to undertake a task that puts too much pressure on our neurons. Some readers of this column have recently told me they find it sometimes too technical or, at another extreme, too philosophical.

Such comments couldn't have been expressed with better timing. I've been planning to share with you some of the "gems" I've come across in the past few years in the computer literature, in specialised magazines or even in the very real 16 years of my professional activity in Jordan. One can call them jokes, anecdotes or simply funny stories. I haven't made up any of them however.

Cooler than an ice filled soft drink, more incredible than fiction, they are the reflection of the amazing speed of change in information technology has been running at. They also show how people lose their common sense, say or write just about anything when they are scared by new technology.

— "I have travelled the length and breadth of this country and talked with the best people, and I can assure you that data processing is a fad that won't last out the year." — Editor-in-charge of business books for Prentice-Hall, 1957.



You know, I liked you a whole lot more on the Internet

— "Not all storage devices are 3.5 or 5.25 inch squares. A third type of storage medium, the CD-ROM, is spherical." — **PC Novice.**

— "Want to trade World War II Japanese army rifle for 386 or stronger." — **The Oregon Bulletin.**

— "Your optional 500-sheet paper tray assembly is covered under your printer's one year warranty or 90 days, whichever is longer." — **HP Laserjet 4 manual**

—"Computer in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tonnes." — **Popular Mechanics, 1949**

— "For almost 100 years, NEC has been supplying ... personal computers and high-tech electronics throughout the world." — **Telcorps Newsline.**

— "For sale: Computer with medical software. WordPerfect, headlights, esophagoscope, sinus surgery instruments, stainless steel canisters, facial nerve stimulator. ... never opened." — **The Carnrick Classified**

From personal experience in Amman:

— An executive officer in a major bank, in 1988: "When the computer processes Arabic characters, does the hard disk rotate in the other direction?"

— A potential client, in 1989: "I need a computer that runs on software." — I was tempted to offer him one that runs on diesel fuel.

— A client on the phone, last February: "My PC has been hit by a virus, I'm afraid I'll have to replace all the infected hardware."

— A PC with its printer was sent to us by a farmer for repair in 1993. Complaint: "Problem with the mouse." Upon opening the printer we actually found small fragments of white cheese and ... the dead body of a mouse (the real thing, the animal), trapped in the printing mechanism.

Finally if you have Word 6.0 and you want to know why Microsoft actually did take a stand on the Gulf War issue, run the programme, type "Saddam" then see what the spell checker suggests.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

HOWLERS

— When complimented on a dress she wears, she says modestly, "Oh, it's really nothing." How true!

— With that dress, it's hard to tell whether she's trying to catch a man or a cold.

— That dress of hers should be called the OPPORTUNITY. There's lots of room at the top.

— She goes out wearing less than her mother wore in bed.

— With that strapless gown, it's obvious she's not interested in shouldering any responsibility.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

** What subject do you teach?
Ayyo mawad todar'ress?

Languages	**Lughat**
Arithmetic	**Hissab**
Algebra	**Jabr**
Geometry	**Handasa**
Trigonometry	**Hissab muthallathat**
Mechanics	**Mikaneeka**
Physics	**Feezia**
Chemistry	**Keemia**
Arabic	**Arabi**
Botany	**Nabat**
Zoology	**Hayawan**
Geology	**Joyolojia**
Philosophy	**Falsafa**
History	**Tareekh**
Geography	**Joghrafia**
Sociology	**Ijtimaa**
English	**Ingleezi**
French	**Faransi**

** In modern schools, students are given practical lessons in electricity, carpentry and various handicrafts.

Fil madaressil haditha yolaqqan at-tollab doroosan amaliah fil kahraba wan-nijarah wal-mehan al-yadawiyal mukhtalifa.

** Have you been a member to any of the school societies?
Hal konta odwan fee ayyen minal jam'eyyatil madrasiya?

** Yes, the musical society.
Na'am, jam'eyyatul moosiqa.

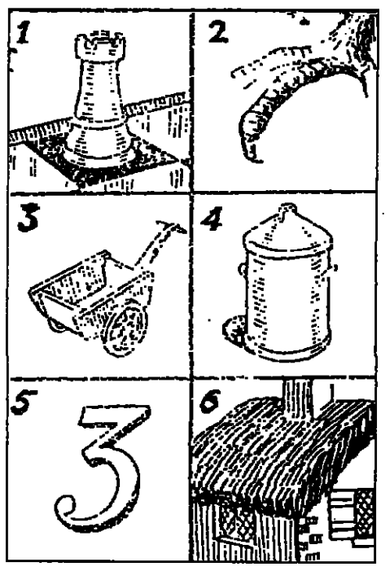
** These societies help students to line their career.
Hathehil jam'eyyat tusa'id at-tollab ala tahdeed mustaqbalehim.

JOKES

* **TEACHER**: "What do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?"
STUDENT: "A teacher, sir."

PUZZLES

A PICTORIAL AVIARY



FROM the six pictures given here the names of five British birds can be formed by arranging certain letters of the objects depicted. Thus: The FIRST bird is made up of all the letters of one object.

The SECOND contains the first two letters of one and the first and last of another object.

The THIRD comprises the first letter of one object, the last three of another and two of yet another.

The FOURTH bird is an arrangement of the first two of one and the last three of another object.

To make up the name of the FIFTH bird take the first two letters of one object and all the letters of another.

Decide first of all what the pictures represent, and then proceed on the stated lines.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

(1) What is copra?

(2) What is a scarab?

(3) What is an assegai?

(4) What is the origin of the term "Thumps up"

(5) What do we mean by pons asinorum?

(6) What is the Blarney Stone?

(7) What birds of the Chinese train to catch fish?

Sharing, the greatest gift of all

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen



I HAD once read that sometimes it is not the things that happen to us that determine the quality of our life, but our attitude towards such things. And that while we cannot control what other people say and do, we can at least control ourselves.

It is in such situations that it helps to know who we are, what we are capable of, and what we want to do with our lives. At the same time, and recognising that while we have our dreams and the courage to pursue them when we decide we want to, we have also got to respect the right of others to do the same.

All this has to do with a "communication" that is above all about honesty and sincerity.

There are, however, some "communicators" who use their communication skills to conceal their true thoughts from the listener.

One such example is that of a government that can do very little to change things but cannot afford to admit that it can do very little. For if it did, it would make it look as though it can do very little. And a government can only make such an admission when it blames external factors for its failures.

But the government that cannot afford to admit that it can do very little can do one of several things: One, it can say it is worried about something. Two, it can then say it is working out what to do. Three, it can then say it will do something. Finally, it can say it has done something.

At no point need it actually do anything. However, it cannot go on saying those things over and over again without varying the phrasing. For example, another way of saying 'we are worried about something' is to say that "this is a subject of concern to us" or "this is a subject of great concern." More ways could include saying that "we have identified this as a subject of genuine concern" or that "the public is quite rightly concerned about this, and so are we."

But there are certain traps that the public relations officer and our prestigious communicator need tobe aware of. For example, saying that "this is a subject of legitimate concern and we intend to respond positively to the ground swell of public opinion" is wrong. Wrong because with such a statement comes the promise to do something.

Now, proper ways of saying this include "we are keeping our options open," or "we are monitoring the situation carefully," or even "we are listening carefully to what you are saying."

"Listen" and "carefully" are good words. Gtting those in a phrase suggests the speaker is in fact listning carefully. He or she is not of course. They are too busy talking carefully. All because careless talk costs jobs.

Carelessness can also cost you a relationship because the breakdown of communications within a relationship can cause it to fail. But being able to communicate with a partner and to be willing to be honest and sincere can, and most certainly will, pull such a relationship out of trouble and eventually make it stronger than it ever was at any other time.

And when something like this happens, you arebound to end up happier, stronger and more mature as a perion. And once you learn to trust, to hope and to persevere, a love that is both patient and kind will forever protect you.

JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, June 13, 1996

3:05	Double Dragon
3:30	The New Three Stooges
3:35	NBA
4:30	Pirates (Documentary)
5:00	Flash News
5:01	French Programmes — Les Polluardo
6:30	1996 European Championships: Bulgaria vs. Romania (First Half)
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	2nd Half
8:25	Nippon — The Land and its People The Tradition of Performing Arts in Japan
9:05	Varieties
9:10	Star Trek
10:00	News In English
10:25	Daily Summary — Japan Week
10:35	Movie — Victor Victoria Starring: Julie Andrews & James Garner

Friday, June 14, 1996

3:00	Iris, the Happy Professor
3:15	Pebbles And Bamm Bamm Show
3:45	Bush School
3:55	See How They Grow
4:10	The Crystal Maze
5:00	News Flash
5:01	French Programmes — Les Polluards
5:30	Telefilm — La Naissance Du Jour
6:30	1996 European Championships: Turkey vs. Porugal (First Half)
7:15	Le Journal
7:30	2nd Half
8:25	People Count: Taking Control (Documentary)
9:10	The Wanderer
10:00	News In English
10:25	Movie — The Portrait Starring: Gregory Peck & Lauren Bacall

Saturday, June 15, 1996

3:00	Moomin
3:30	Pumpkin Patch
4:00	Blue Heelers
4:40	Big Brother Jake
5:00	News Flash
5:01	French Programme — Ordy
5:15	Document — La Vie Dfvant Moi
5:30	Sports (Football)
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Faut Pas Rever
7:35	The Torkelsons
8:00	Sports (Football)
10:00	News In English
10:25	The Bold And The Beautiful
11:10	Movie — William Starring: Ira Michell & John Papais

Sunday, June 16, 1996

3:05	The Mask
3:30	Mac & Mutley
5:00	Flash News
5:01	French Programme — Ordy
5:15	Document — La Vie Devant Moi
5:30	Game Show — Que Le Meilleur Gagne
6:00	Magazine — Envoye Special
7:00	1996 European Championships: Germany Vs. The Czech Republic (First Half)
8:55	The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air
9:20	Daily Summary — Japan Week
9:30	1996 European Championships: Denmark Vs. Portugal (First Half)
10:00	News In English
10:30	2nd Half
11:20	Counterstrike

Monday, June 17, 1996

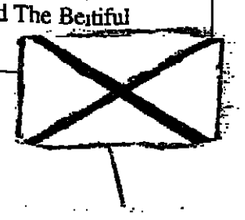
3:00	Bonkers
3:30	Richie Rich
4:00	Animals Of The Mediterranean
5:00	News Flash
5:01	French Programme — Ordy
5:15	Family Programme — L'Ecole Des Fans
6:00	Magazine — Ihassa
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Scince — Cinq Sur Cinq
7:35	The Nanny
8:30	Rock Around The World
10:00	News In English
10:25	The Bold And The Beautiful
P.S.	These programmes might change due to live transmisson of European Championship.

Tuesday, June 18, 1996

3:00	Iris The Happy Professo
3:20	Captain Planet
3:45	The Bob Morrison Show
4:35	Alf
5:00	News Flash
5:01	French Programme — Ody
5:15	Document — La Vie Devnt Moi
5:30	Game Show — Que Le Milleur Gagne
6:00	Medical Magazine — Savor Plus Sante
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Ushuaia
8:25	Deep Probe Expeditions
9:10	Star Trek
10:00	News In English
10:25	Movie — Murder In New Hapshire Starring: Helen Hunt & ChadEllen
P.S.	These programmes might hange due to live transmission ofEuropean Championship.

Wednesday, June 19, 1996

3:00	The Fintstones
3:30	Iris
3:45	Bill Nye, The Science Guy
4:20	Kelly
5:00	News Flash
5:01	French Programme — es Polluards
5:30	Serie — Secret De Faille
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Sports EMusique
8:25	Changer (Drama)
9:10	Hunter
10:00	News In English
10:25	The Bold And The Beitiful
11:10	Airwolf



Tobacco under fire — An industry at the crossroads

By Jay Root
Agence France Presse

WINSTON-SALEM, North Carolina — There is trouble on tobacco road.

U.S. cigarette makers face the multiple threats of unprecedented government regulation, criminal investigations, multibillion dollar lawsuits and an ever-shrinking domestic clientele.

Tobacco farmers fear their centuries-old heritage will vanish. Politicians pro and con are bracing for war. Wall Street is jittery.

And the estimated 47 million American smokers, unwilling or unable to quit inhaling a product the government blames for 419,000 deaths each year, have become social outcasts.

"It's communism," shrieked Bennie Thomas, a two-pack-a-day construction worker forced to smoke outdoors due to a local law in nearby Durham. "If a man wants to smoke, that's his business."

Such sentiments are common in North Carolina, the largest producer of tobacco in the United States and home to RJ Reynolds tobacco company, maker of Winston, Salem and Camel cigarettes.

Tobacco, steeped in tradition, is embedded in U.S. history and culture, and cigarette makers remain a cornerstone of American enterprise.

But for many doctors and anti-smoking activists, any curbs on the world's most dangerous consumer product would be a blessing.

To be sure, any talk of industry-wide demise is premature.

Tobacco has been down before, and global sales remain strong.

But there are cracks in the armour.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, armed with data showing a sharp rise in teen smoking, declared war on the industry when in 1995 his administration proposed to regulate cigarettes as drugs. A final decision is pending.

Meantime, the Liggett Group, maker of Chesterfield cigarettes, shocked tobacco country in March when it agreed to settle with five of the nine states now suing to recoup the costs of treating sick smokers.

No company had ever agreed, or been forced, to pay a penny in smoking injury awards.

Compounding the industry's headaches are several ongoing criminal probes, at least one relating to the tobacco executives themselves.

A grand jury is looking into whether several top executives lied when they testified before a panel of Congress in 1994 that nicotine is not addictive. Secret documents have shown the companies' own researchers found nicotine to be addictive.

But perhaps the biggest threat facing the tobacco industry now is Mr. Clinton's proposal to regulate cigarettes under the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The sweeping plan would forbid companies from giving away cigarettes, selling their wares in vending machines or advertising on billboards within 300 metres (1,000 feet) of a school or playground.

It would also ban brand-name sponsorhip of sporting or entertainment events and force the industry to fund a $150 million anti-smoking campaign for children.

Philip Morris, maker of Marlboro, the world's most popular brand, recently offered along with U.S. Tobacco, which makes smokeless tobacco, a legislative alternative similar to Mr. Clinton's proposal.

But it had one huge caveat: No FDA control. The Clinton administration described the offer as inadequate.

While there is at least some common ground on the evils of teen smoking, the companies part company with government on the overwhelming case against tobacco's dangers.

Despite overwhelming evidence that smoking causes cancer, serious heart disease and other ailments, the industry still refers to the "health controversy". Anti-smoking forces call it the "big lie."

"I wouldn't stand here and say smoking causes cancer because I don't know," said Charles Blixt, vice-president and general counsel of RJ Reynolds, in an interview.

Mr. Blixt also denied the industry had not been forthright. Surveys show more people "are aware of the risks of smoking than are aware of who the first (U.S.) president was," he said.

Despite their troubles, the news is not all bad for the tobacco titans.

A federal court recently threw out a lawsuit filed on behalf of virtually every U.S. smoker claiming tobacco-related injuries. The plaintiffs are now pressing ahead in state courts across the nation.

Meanwhile, tobacco firms are reaping the fruits of their successful lobbying effort on U.S. trade policy, which has contributed to booming sales abroad. Philip Morris' first-quarter profits amounted to $1.6 billion, up 14.8 per cent from a year earlier, with profits equally higher from tobacco sales.

Alan Blum, head of the renowned Doctor's Ought to Care (DOC) anti-tobacco group, is no fan of the tobacco companies. But he acknowledges that while anti-smoking forces continue to hound them, their profits continue to soar.

"These companies are not on the ropes," he said, pointing to Philip Morris' record profit levels. "If I had no scruples, I would invest in the tobacco industry."

U.S. approves device to treat enlarged prostates

WASHINGTON (R) — A computer-controlled device that destroys excess prostate tissue with microwave heat was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Also, a researcher announced results of a Veterans' Administration study showing that of two common drugs used to treat enlarged prostates, one is significantly better, with the other having little benefit.

Enlarged prostate, medically known as benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), affects more than 50 per cent of men aged 60 or older and causes a gradual increase in frequent, difficult urination, sometimes leading to urinary tract damage.

The FDA said the procedure using the device made by Edap Technomed, a private French firm, takes one hour and can be done on an outpatient basis with local anaesthetic.

The FDA said drugs give only modest relief while surgery, still the most effective treatment, required anaesthesia and could result in blood loss, impotence and other complications.

It added that because of the design of the device, it would be limited for use on patients with a medium-sized prostate.

"This device provides another alternative for men who are unable or do not wish to have surgery for enlarged prostate," FDA Commissioner David Kessler said. "While not a cure, it effectively threats the symptoms of BPH."

Treatment with the device, the FDA said, had been shown to be safe and effective, although it did not correct the problems of incomplete emptying of the bladder and weak urinary stream.

Edap Technomed Group, the firm's unit in Cambridge, Massachusetts, tested the device on 375 men over 45 at seven medical centres in the United States and Europe, the FDA said. It said such urinary symptoms as urgency, frequency, straining and intermittent flow improved in 75 per cent of patients.

The FDA said a follow-up four years later showed the improvement continued in about half the patients the other half needed treatment again with the device or drugs or surgery at some time during the four years.

In the Veterans Administration comparative study, one of two common drugs used to treat enlarged prostates was clearly shown to be better than the other at relieving symptoms, a U.S. researcher said.

The study found that Terazosin, marketed under the product name Hytrin, was "significantly" more effective than the placebo. Meanwhile, the drug Finasteride, marketed as Proscar, had virtually identical results to the placebo.

The results of the study were released at the American Urological Association's annual meeting in Orlando, Florida.

The study's principal investigator, Dr. Herb Lepor, chairman of the Department of Urology at New York University, said the study essentially confirmed the effectiveness of Terazosin but was unable to duplicate the benefits of Finasteride shown in other studies.

Nuclear medicine aids breast cancer diagnosis — experts

DENVER (R) — Nuclear medicine can help diagnose two of the greatest health risks to women, breast cancer and heart disease, experts in the field told a conference recently.

"Nuclear medicine offers painless, safe, accurate and cost-effective prognostic, diagnostic and therapeutic approaches," said Naomi Alazraki, co-director of the Division of Nuclear Medicine at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta.

Nuclear medicine uses very small amounts of radioactive substances, "No more than perhaps one to three or four times the radiation you get from living on Earth in Denver for one year," said Dr. Alazraki.

About 7,000 nuclear medicine and health care professionals are attending the annual society of nuclear medicine's 43rd annual meeting here.

Scientists at the conference will present papers on advances in diagnosing breast cancer and on distinguishing malignant from benign tumours.

The procedure, called scintimammography, uses nuclear medicine to make picture of the breast and is being studied as a complement to standard mammography to help detect cancer when mammography results are inconclusive. The process is awaiting approval by the Food and Drug Administration.

Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in American women, with an estimated 2.6 million living with the disease. About half of these women do not know it, Dr. Alazraki said.

Nuclear medicine can also help detect heart disease, which is expected to kill half a million women this year, by aiding doctors in determining which women are at high, intermediate or low risk for a future heart attack or death.

Nuclear medicine heart scans, which provide three-dimensional pictures of the heart, show areas where blood flow is reduced, indicating heart disease, said Douglas Miller, a cardiologist and nuclear medicine physician at the St. Louis Univeristy Health Sciences Centre.

Nuclear medicine can also make a contribution in this era of cost consciousness by better identifying those who do not need expensive medical care, Dr. Miller said.

"Those medical resources can then be appropriately re-directed in the direction of the higher risk patients who benefit from high-risk care," he said.

Pneumonia bacteria 'may be linked' to coronary diseases

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A tiny bacteria that causes pneumonia may play a key role in atherosclerosis, the underlying cause of nearly half the deaths in the United States.

Atherosclerosis of the coronary arteries consists of an accumulation of plaque on the artery walls that reduces the blood flow or cuts it off altogether.

The degenerative coronary obstruction can cause pectoral angina or heart attack.

A study published in the June issue of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology shows that chlamydia pneumoniae, a bacteria discovered a few years ago, has been found in coronary arteries with atherosclerosis.

The bacteria, barely detectable even by powerful microscopes, is not present in coronary arteries without atherosclerosis, according to the study.

Chlamydiae are urinogenital and pulmonary infection agents.

"If it (the study) is true and chlamydia really causes atherosclerosis, then this may have tremendous implications," said Joseph Muhlestein, a co-author of the study and an assistant professor of medicine at LDS Hospital, Salt Lake City, Utah.

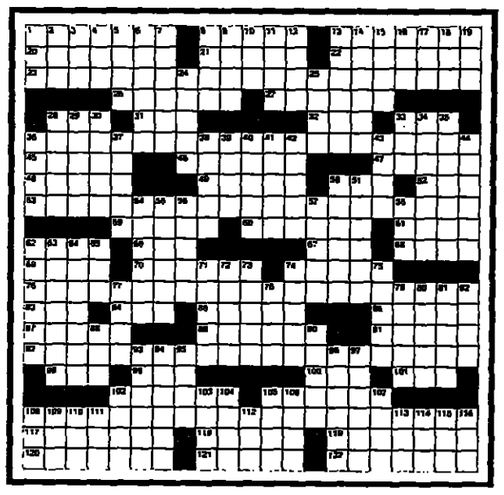
The link between the bacteria and atherosclerosis was discovered by studying plaque specimens from patients with coronary artery disease.

Chlamydia was found in 79 per cent of 90 specimens, as compared with only 4 per cent in 24 nonatherosclerotic pathology specimens, according to the study.

"This could create a whole new paradigm of atherosclerosis," said Jeffrey Anderson, the senior researcher of the Utah team and the chief of cardiology at LDS Hospital. "It could influence how we look at coronary disease, not just as a degenerative disease but as a disease in some cases initiated by an infectious process," he said.

But the researchers also conceded chlamydia may be only "an innocent bystander" that grows in atherosclerotic plaque but does not contribute to the development of atherosclerosis.

CELEBRATION
By Fran and Lou Sabin



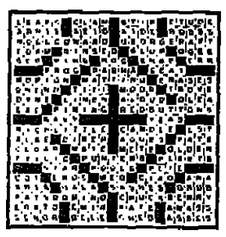
ACROSS
1 Egyptian asylum
6 "Rock and —"
13 Scottish exhibitor
20 In — (as the purpose of)
21 Celtic arch
22 Young man of ancient Greece
23 In 1939 "Faraway Hill" was —
26 Water
27 Michael — of TV's "The Third Man"
28 Festive part
31 "Coming out" mags, briefly
32 Schedule abbr
33 Mimings, briefly
36 In 1956, Dinah Shore was named —
45 Baseball pro
46 Greasy spoon
47 Composer — Herb Brown
48 Harsh, in Scotland
49 Kind of murair
50 Antediluvian
52 "Mayberry —"
53 In 1968 Bill Cosby was named —
59 Court plea
60 Japanese emigrants in the US
61 Conase name
62 NJ city
66 Maren's lang.
67 Hood's weapon
68 Base hall
69 Give off
70 Brunch one
74 Kathy in "Fried Green Tomatoes"
75 In 1976, the Emmy for comedy across was —
83 TV's Sue — Langdon
84 Evergreen
85 Proclaims
86 Showery month in Paris
87 National League MVP, 1971
89 Merchants' guilds
91 "The Prisoner of —"
92 In 1986, Phil Donahue hosted the —
98 Droop-nosed fish
99 Atlantic City cube
100 Trouble
101 Donkey
102 Sal "The Barber"
105 Corsage fibers
108 1996 marks networks' —
117 — gland
118 Senseless
119 Dunkirk survivor
120 Does usher's work
121 European finch
122 International agreement

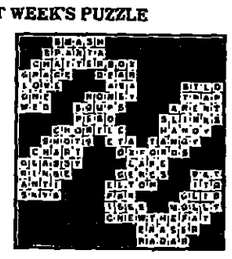
DOWN
1 Canvas sleeper
2 Regal letters
3 Picnic drink
4 Fight official, briefly
5 Perennial herb
6 Giant step
7 Islam adherent
8 Social reformer Lucretia
9 Shooting fit
10 Hero's shield
11 University
12 — mignon
13 Hindi attention
14 — Way Rome
15 Oxford
16 Large mushroom
17 Actor Vinetta
18 Cards play
19 Cool — cucumber
24 Word ornaments in old Rome
25 Bun
28 Salerno sauce
29 Hail, legally
30 Play a mandolin
33 In the manner of
34 Germ
35 Gussies
38 Woody liber
37 Manna rhizopod, for short
38 Flock members
39 Serbian bubbler
40 Lab dish
41 "To — human"
42 Nolan and Irene
43 "No — ifs, ..."
44 Sings in the Alps
50 Mind fogger
51 Army doctor, inventor of a water bug
54 Ambassador
56 Hometown
58 Cotton fabric
57 George of "For the Boys"
58 Ancs
62 Smooth and connected, musically
63 Threatening
64 Redirects
65 Believer cult
71 Japanese town
72 Firth of Clyde island
73 Pinocchio's problem
74 "Two if —"
76 Air pollution
77 Russian turndown
78 Screen —
79 — barrel (in trouble)
80 Regional birdlife
81 Amusement park features
82 WWII Greek resistance force
88 Alphabet run
90 Voters' choice
93 "— the Races" (Marx brothers)
94 Actors Bruce and Patrick
95 Oscar — Renta
96 Edited out
97 Gown part
102 Talkative bird
103 Author Murdoch
104 Laborer of yore
105 Moroccan town
106 — gun (Einstein weapon)
107 Beat it!
108 Distant
109 Food fish
110 Bank group of a kind: abbr
111 Golf gadget
112 Tarsme dem
113 Expert
114 Warmer
115 Eastern observance
116 Notice

Diagramless, 17x17
By Don Johnson

ACROSS
1 Epithet for Hemingway
5 Russian river
9 Females
10 Discharges
12 Liquid measure
13 OK city
16 Snow: —
17 Place of sacrifice
19 Gentle creature
21 Vehicle of the old West
24 Humor poem
26 Uttered
27 Dwight Eisenhower, familiarly
28 Store sign
30 Washington bill
31 Famous flatness
32 Ballet start
34 Have being
35 Guitarist Paul
36 Historical overland route
39 Have a meal
40 The — of the land
41 Hit with the open hand
42 Lover's quarrel
44 Little island
45 Oil
49 Make mistakes
50 Build
52 Broadcasting of sound
53 TV oldie
56 Related
57 Italian commune
58 English coast
61 Mr. Durocher
62 Tizzy
63 Ft. tourist attraction
64 Diminutive suffix
65 La Douce
66 At no time, to poets

DOWN
1 Breathe forcefully
2 Opera solo
3 City on the Seine
4 Warns
5 Last frontier
7 Hawaiian yam
8 Involves
9 Piles
11 Harbor town
15 Singing voice
14 Rails
15 Singer Ed
18 Large flightless bird
20 Reach base safely, in a way
22 Hopelessly ones
23 — out (make do)
25 Drink noisily
29 French summer
31 Marine fish
33 More repulsive
34 Indeterminate number
35 Woodly who
37 Relative of a scone
38 Pie — mode
39 US calendar
42 Upon a needle
43 Laud
44 Sculpture or painting
46 Pedestal figure
47 Egyptian river
48 Fuss
50 Maternally related
51 Neckwear adornment
54 Stop —!
55 Mother-of-pearl
58 Large birds
60 Luminary





Last Week's Cryptograms

1. After successful surgery, the patient began to develop very severe headaches — from doctor bills and claim forms.
2. Hungry young actor gets first role in commercial for motor homes.
3. Plainly, the rhino may find a sad fate similar to the dodo's, and ditto for the hippo.
4. Phlegmatic guru, lacking charisma, makes unsuccessful attempt to recruit new followers.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. GSTZIZMZLU KLCK IWN MWLBYNK LYLZUKI WZR BNBN GSTZIZMLTTC RSIZDLINF. ZU LUC NDNUI, IWN RSUNC ZUDSTDNF BLK L TSLU. WSUNKI! — By Sol Talmaker

2. OHKC PBGXBKBRU GWUIK ALIWILE UG RULED XBPIXC ABQQBTHUG YBUNGEU B ZGY ZITHERI, NI RHCE, BU NHR DGLI ABQQBOO. — By Duane H. McGogy

3. HEN CUTTS GIIXUDINR IXMHS IUGAXD LIUZR BNHL UZZ GCI BHHP DNHETR: MEXY, BURG, PIZA, UXP GUYI-HEG. — K.C. Doyle

4. AWL ACTED AGOG KTGCIED ACOORP MTGCHI YGSH WH ARMY-CK PYMYWGH SMLGH. — By Ed Huddleson

Young children in U.S. show strong immunity to polio virus

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Researchers have found high levels of immunity to the polio virus among young children but that live vaccines offered little protection from secondary spread, the Journal of the American Medical Association said.

Researchers from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia said a study they conducted in two U.S. cities showed that "seroprevalence of antibodies against all three polio types in high-risk populations ... was generally high, approximating or exceeding 90 per cent by 24-35 months of age."

The researchers tested blood samples of 526 children aged 12 to 47 months.

They said in the study that even though the virus spread rapidly in Houston, Texas and Detroit, Michigan, during the past decade "these levels of immunity were probably high enough to prevent subsequent spread."

Testing of a separate group of samples showed that 9-18 per cent of 114 unvaccinated children were immune to the polio poliviruses type one and two and 29-42 per cent were immune to type three.

The researchers suggested the unvaccinated children became immune through secondary infection from children who had been given an attenuated live oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV), which has been used in the United States since the early 1960's.

William Foege of the task force for child survival said the study made a case for using inactivated polio vaccines in the United States, particularly since the risk of OPV-associated paralysis "looms much larger in the absence of a secondary benefit of OPV."

In an editorial published with the study, Dr. Foege also said global eradication of polio could be achieved by 2000.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

(1) Dried coconut.

(2) A sacred Egyptian beetle.

(3) A slender Zulu spear of hard wood.

(4) The crowds at the Roman arenas made this gesture when they desired that the life of a fallen gladiator should be spared — an expression now meaning "in luck's way."

(5) A proposition expounded by Euclid.

(6) A stone set in the wall of Castle Blarney, near Cork, Ireland, and difficult to access. It is said that anyone who kisses the Blarney Stone is endowed with heroic powers of cajolery or persuasion.

(7) Cormorants.

* * * * *

PUZZLES

A PICTORIAL AVIARY

1. ROOK. All the letters of Picture No. 1 (ROOK).

2. CROW. C and W from No. 2 (CLAW) and RO from No. 1 (Rook).

3. CUCKOO. C from No. 2 (CLAW); UCK from No. 3 (Truck); and OO from No. 1 (Rook).

4. ROBIN. RO from No. 1 (Rook) and BIN from No. 4 (Dustbin).

5. NUTHATCH. NU from No. 5 (Number) and all of No. 6 (Thatch).

Capturing 'the sense of the moment'

RENDEZVOUS WITH ART

By Mahmoud I. Mufti

THERE IS a popular belief in the world of professional photography that everything is squarely in terms of the subject matter, with the photographer simply acting as the capturer of an instant here, a moment there. This is valid, and certainly applies in many cases.

However, it is also true, as illustrated in the works of American fine art photographer George Vass, that the photographer dictates his terms and preferences on the subject matter. The latter can vary from random people going about their daily business, to sheep awaiting their impending slaughter in the Eid, to (even) the beginnings of a twister or sandstorm in Wadi Rum. The artist achieves this in large part by the judicious exercise of patience, a deep-rooted sense of documentary philosophy and perhaps most pertinent of all, a "sense of the moment."

In his exercise of the latter, Mr. Vass awaits the very moment in the scene that triggers the exact nature and threshold of response in him. When this happens, he shoots. But this is only one aspect of his photographic methodology. There are other instances when he shoots a



An old man turned away from his West Bank hometown

scene from a moving car, capturing the moment off guard, with all its delights and oddities.

The exhibit consists of 44 photographs taken in Jordan, Jerusalem and the West Bank. "They reflect the lives of people along the banks of the Jordan River who have witnessed the passage of history, cultures and events," according to a press release from the United States Information Service.

At first glance, the viewer seems justified in feeling disconcerted with a lot of the exhibited works; blurdness abounds in many of the pictures. One wonders how a Leica and 35mm format in the hands of photographic master could produce jittery photos like this. "Balance is very important in the works", explains Mr. Vass, adding that "I often purposely chose to make the image blurred in one part of the picture, since its natural angularity would not harmonise — or balance — with a relatively vague object somewhere else (in the frame)." Yet the effect, even though forced, is never contrived.

Different genres of balance achieved by the artist include



Palestinian women en route to refugee camps

the detection and "homing in" on natural parallels. One sort capitalises on literal parallels in terms of juxtaposition (involving, for instance, a street side-rail and overhead signboard, on the one hand, or a farmyard brick wall and a horizontally-outstretched retaining chain, on the other hand).

The potential of infinite shadows and the kindred element of contrasting hues in any given scene are likewise capitalised upon by the artist through the selection of the optimal time of day as well as the skillful manipulation of the numerous variables during the casting and composition processes. This conglomeration of possibilities arms the artist with the requisite aesthetic material from which to achieve balance, once again, albeit through the masterful manipulation of shadows. Accordingly, they (the shadows and shades) are made to interplay with each other in such a manner that they attain a sense of the parallel. But because they are shadows and not solid objects, the parallels and balance achieved by them — rather, though them — is of the undisciplined, though comfortable and spiritual sort.

The works of George Vass are strictly in black and white, with every possible shade of gray in between endowing the work with all the diminutive details and nuances offered by colour photography, though, as is inevitable in black and white, the character and atmosphere are entirely different. They evoke the past without ringing with anachronism. Interestingly, they are actually all taken recently and are contemporary in that sense. Yet the identity that berobes them is one similar to turn-of-the-century classic photographs, in as much as the latter are able to generate that special enduring allure so hard to achieve these days.

The viewer will not notice any sense of novelty surrounding these works. They lack that halo of novelty normally associated with explorers' or travellers' pictures. Instead, they stand for a far deeper understanding of, and sensitivity to, local Arab culture and are consequently far less transient.

The artist was pressed further on this point. He expounded that "they (the works) symbolise something and have feelings in them. The work I do is 'everyday life', and you find symbols and mystery in it — like a verse or an individual poem. These scenes do not represent travel photography. They're not to show you how people in Jordan, the West Bank or Jerusalem live: They are showing my (own personal) reaction to that. They are showing what made me attracted to them (the scenes) and why they moved me to take these (particular shots). Otherwise, it would be travel photography, involving just going round with the camera and taking pictures of coffee tables."

One particular shot depicts a tall, thin scraggly man in one corner of the photograph, heavily shadowed and accordingly mysterious and even sinister. He is standing there perfectly still, with the demeanor of someone preoccupied with protecting a hypothetical hidden bookstand or some other stand of sellables from pilfering hands, while awaiting to ensnare an unsuspecting buyer with an irresistible deal. The contrast in the picture (and consequently the balance) is not restricted to the element of shades and shadows, but is also manifest in the stillness of the man as compared to the hurried gaits of bypassers.

At the risk of reading too much into the works, one cannot help observing that the general theme common to most of the pictures seems to be the study of the interrelationship between photography as art and the socio-economic conditions (of people and settings depicted). None of the pictures narrate wealthy people or affluent neighbourhoods. This is understandable, when bearing in mind what the artist said earlier, that the scenes are reflective of the attraction (and hence the relevance) that these themes were able to draw from their framer; the artist. The preference is thus personal and totally subjective: He shoots what touches him to the core of his being. Rich people, plush villas and cars simply did not move him in the slightest.

It could well be appropriate at this juncture to explore what was observed of the works of prominent portrait photographer, August Sander. A book featuring his works, entitled Citizens of the Twentieth Century: Portrait Photographs 1892-1952, includes in its preface (by Gunther Sander), a potential parallel between the works of the two artists. "Sander also developed a new awareness of the problematic relationship between art and economic conditions. However, he tended to see this problem from a somewhat antiquated point of view: his basic demand that the artist must decide whether to serve cultural or market exigencies was based upon the belief that the two were distinct entities and that 'culture' could and should remain independent of economic factors. These reflections coincided with his belief that he could, through his creative work, stand apart from history and society. From that neutral ground he believed he would be able to impartially 'hold a mirror' up to people and produce an 'objective' picture of the social panorama before him ... Without realising it, he operated from a specific social position which prescribed for him a definitely partisan position."

This quote is not intended to allude to partisanship on the part of artist George Vass in as much as it does intend to draw parallels between the sense of mission, through photography, that characterises the two individuals in their separate and slightly different realms.

Reflecting on his artistic philosophy, the artist says: "Life is made up of tiny, seemingly insignificant moments which are more often than not overlooked. From time immemorial, the people along the banks of the Jordan have witnessed the passage of history, cultures and events. Against this tapestry of sometimes dramatic episodes they continue to follow the flow of everyday life. This is what I see."

The various scenes featured in the exhibit are inclusive of



Young girls rushing home to the iftar in Jerusalem

shots of people in the streets of downtown Amman, Jerash, Irbid (among other places) as well as of the old cosy alleys and holy places of Jerusalem and the West Bank in general. People rushing home minutes before the iftar in Ramadan are shown, with fast-food street vendors attempting to persuade them to improve their dinner prospects by purchasing some of their freshly baked or fried pastries.

A profile shot of a public transport bus reveals the glum faces of two young mothers, children-in-laps, one of whom is looking out into infinity. The prevalent expression is not one of obvious despair as it is a reflection of resignation and an — albeit dignified — submission to mundane daily routine. The artist is captivated by the atmosphere in this scene. And so is the viewer, especially upon reading the embossed stop-over names of the bus's travel route: "Al Wihdat : The Sharq Al Awsat : Hitteen (formerly Schneller) Community College" (meticulously hand-painted along the length of the bus). The artist did not know that these destinations represent residential and work places for large numbers of the victims of the Palestinian diaspora. This is all the more interesting in the context of an American photographer's reaction to and recognition of the inherent sense of frustration in these people's faces without even knowing their troubled recent history — just their socio-economic predicament.

Describing his work, the artist says that: "With my camera, I capture moments that we pass by without a second glance. Moments that make up our daily lives. The approach I use is called 'High and Low,' where the low, inconsequential events transcend to a high artistic level when captured the instant they are created."

It is doubtful that the women in the bus feel any sense of art regarding their situation, or indeed the street vendors depicted in Jerusalem's stone-tiled alleys as they attempt to eke out a living. But it has also got to be true that it is through artistic mediums, such as this philosophical form of photography, that the multitude of issues and human dilemmas most effectively reach out and touch humankind.

The exhibition, Passage Across the Jordan, consisting of 44 works, runs unill June 23, 1996, at the American Centre Exhibition Hall, The American Embassy — Abdoun. Each print is one of ten worldwide. George Vass is an internationally acclaimed photographer who has exhibited extensively in the United States and Europe.

Juliette Binoche gets passionate in Horseman On The Roof

By Michael Warren
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Actress and model Juliette Binoche is describing the glorious landscapes she fell in love with in the south of France when she stops in midsentence and dashes to the window.

"Look at that! look at that bird!" she says, her dark eyes growing wide at the sight of a seagull gliding high above Manhattan's Upper East Side. "It's amazing, because you feel there's nothing can happen here. All you see is airplanes ..."

After working in Provence and Tuscany in her last two films, Horseman On The Roof and The English Patient, this devoted Parisienne says she's had enough of urban life. She's flying back tonight to Paris, where she's trading in her cramped place in Montmartre for a house with a garden.

"I need to plant things and see them growing and see the seasons passing," explains Binoche. "Then you feel life, you feel part of the earth. Not like here."

Lately, Binoche can afford to get her thumbs dirty. A modelling contract with Lancome pays her bills, and her schedule is unexpectedly free after she was booted in March from the starring role in Lucie Aubrac, a film about a heroine of the French resistance. Binoche wanted a realistic portrayal of Aubrac's life; director Claude Berri wanted more romance. Berri won.

Aubrac is "an amazing woman," she says, "and I was very close to her. That's why it probably bothered the director. Because, to me, the movie was about her, and for her and her husband. And I think the director didn't really care about her opinion. For me, that was crucial."

Such impertinence. Berri, who directed Germinal, is a top director in France. But in almost 20 films, Binoche has enjoyed having creative input with Louis Malle, Jean-Luc Godard, Krzysztof Kieslowski, Leos Carax, Mike Figgis, Jean-Paul Rappeneau and Anthony Minghella. Such give and take on the set is vital, she says: "It's a way to be intelligent."

A petite brunette with freckles and a wide, enchanting smile, this 32-year-old actress has a natural and yet sophisticated beauty, something like Holly Golightly with a PhD. She laughs often, appears to be happy and well-centred, and yet there is much about her life that she won't reveal — such as the identity of the father of her 2-year-old son, Raphael.

"I don't talk about my private life," she says flatly. "I don't care about what people think I am because I know what I am, and so it doesn't matter to me."

Binoche has been in the public eye for years. The daughter of a director and drama teacher, she studied theatre at the Paris Conservatoire and lived for much of her 20s with Carax, who directed her in The Night Is Young and Lovers Of The Pont Neuf.

But she remains mysterious, not unlike many of her characters: Enigmatic women whose beauty goes hand-in-hand with inner strength.

"Most of the time I've been playing survivors. It's resistance I would call it. Resisting. In The Horseman, it has to do with resisting passion, and feelings and love. But I don't think she's cold inside, I tell you, I think she's more than hot; she's boiling inside of her."

In The Horseman, Binoche plays Pauline De Theus, a married French aristocrat who survives a cholera epidemic and political chaos after the fall of Napoleon, struggling all the while to avoid falling in love with the brash young Italian revolutionary who demands to be her escort.

Based on a novel by Jean Giono, it is an epic film, and France's most expensive at $35 million, involving more than 100 roles and 45 different locations across the south of France. But the incendiary centre of the story is the unspoken, unconsummated attraction between Pauline and her dashing Carbonaro, played by Olivier Martinez.

Pauline is a departure from the chilly, distant characters Binoche played in Malle's Damage and Kieslowski's Blue, but the actress is unconcerned about her image when it comes to choosing roles.

"The most important thing is that the story tell something and that the director is someone I respect and I can share something with," she says.

Binoche praised Rappeneau for being faithful to Giono's vision of chivalry, honour and a pastoral world where trees, horses and other living things have spiritual, almost human qualities.

She also had high praise for Minghella, the director of Truly, Madly, Deeply, who brought Binoche and Ralph Fiennes to Italy last year for The English Patient, a film based on the book by Michael Ondaatje.

"He wanted me to get into areas I'd never been in and that's the most generous thing you can expect from a director," she says.

After nerve-wracking experiences with English-language coaches before and during the filming of Damage, Wuthering Heights and The Unbearable Lightness Of Being, Binoche had been concerned about mastering the accent of a Canadian nurse. But she says Minghella encouraged her to speak naturally — and developed such a bond with her that speech became unnecessary.

"He would just move his arms like this," she says, flapping like a swan, "and instead of saying with words, it was just, 'now, fly!' before a take. ... For me it was like, 'oh my God, I'm going to fall down,' and he freed me."

The experience was so enjoyable that Binoche has no desire to jump into another movie. The modelling contract has bought her time to be with her son and work in her garden until the next great story comes along.

"I'm telling stories," she says. "And what I'd like is that people after they see the movie can think about it and ask questions amongst themselves and maybe find answers or other questions. It's not about me. It's about the characters I'm playing."

Changes at Polish television cause alarm

By Anthony Barker
Reuter

WARSAW — Alarm over the independence of Polish public television, the young democracy's main provider of news, is gripping the country's media and reached as far as Washington.

Last month the television's President Wieslaw Walendziak quit, alleging political pressure, and was replaced by a member of the Peasant Party, smaller partner in the ruling coalition dominated by former Communists now turned Social Democrats.

The new chief Ryszard Miazek ousted the head of the main evening news programme and was quoted in newspapers as saying television journalists had to be polite to politicians, avoid expressing opinions and strictly follow the management's line.

Various journalists reacted with horror to his reported comments and Washington officials asked what they meant for the health of democratic institutions Poland will have to prove before U.S. legislators approve its NATO entry.

Foreign Minister Dariusz Rosati returned from talks with top U.S. officials saying: "I heard concerns that the new television leadership might conduct a purge of staff."

Mr. Miazek, 51, is indignant over what he says is a misunderstanding or wilful misrepresentation of his views, motivated in part by prejudice over his peasant affiliations.

"I have never said one cannot pose tough questions or criticise a politician," said Mr. Miazek, a former farming journalist and spokesman for the peasant party chief, who was until now on the watchdog council overseeing broadcasting.

He said public television, serving society at large, did not have the latitude of papers serving specific readerships.

But he told Reuters his goal was merely to implement ethics like those of the British Broadcasting Corporation, to prevent partisan journalism.

"The most controversial view I expressed was the aim of linking the principle of inquisitiveness with the courtesy that should accompany discussion," he said, adding that maybe the row arose because he was setting standards too high.

Although Mr. Miazek insists his guidelines apply to politicians of all hues, critics say that being nice to them would favour parties in power, who must answer for actual policies.

Public television's role is vital because its two channels are by far Poland's biggest providers of news and current affairs, while the sole private nationwide channel, Polsat, is not yet widely seen as a serious alternative in this area.

Before the 1989 fall of communism, state television was controlled totally by official propagandists and in 1992 Poland introduced new rules to safeguard its independence.

Mr. Walendziak, as first president of the reformed TVP SA, brought in a generation of youthful journalists — nicknamed "Pampers" after a brand of babies's nappies — who prided themselves on being as hard-hitting as the newly-free press.

Members of the coalition often alleged hostile bias under Mr. Walendziak and did not hide their satisfaction when he quit.

Now some commentators see the dominant ex-Communist Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) as the hand behind Mr. Miazek's election by the television's supervisory board — a body that largely reflects the political line-up in parliament.

"I am sure the SLD is behind the decision to recall me," said Adam Pieczynski, sacked head of the Channel One's mid-evening flagship news programme Mr. Wiadomosci, which is watched by 12-15 million viewers.

He predicted that Mr. Miazek would make controversial changes, before next year's parliamentary polls, then be replaced by a slicker television professional linked to the SLD.

Mr. Pieczynski told Reuters he did not expect a return to crude propaganda or a sudden purge of staff, although he saw signs that politicians were already having an easier time talking on television without troublesome questioning by journalists.

He said the chief danger was that management of television and the council that oversees broadcasting would continue to be fought over by each political grouping that won power.

"The problem is that every successive coalition will want to behave in the same way, including the right," he said.

He also argued that if a new regional television licence, due to be allocated soon and form the basis of a future independent system, went to a bidder linked with the SLD, this would be an ominous sign.

But government spokeswoman Aleksandra Jakubowska, who has repeatedly complained over TV coverage, denied that the changes at public television heralded control by the coalition.

"I don't believe television's independence was based on two people, President Walendziak and Mr. Pieczynski," she said.

Boleslaw Sulik, head of the watchdog Broadcasting Council, is calm about prospects for television's independence, saying they were better than in other former Soviet Bloc states.

He said the key issue was that changes in its management had been carried out by the proper procedures, despite signs ruling politicians had wanted at one stage to circumvent them.

"Now we must judge it on its record," Mr. Sulik said.

Chinese film industry told to get rolling

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin has made his latest foray into the country's cultural sector, calling on the film industry to produce "refined" movies that reflect China's reform and modernisation programme.

"This is the main tune that the country's literature and art circles, including the film sector, should advocate and observe," Mr. Jiang was quoted as saying by the People's Daily.

Mr. Jiang made his remarks during a recent visit to the August 1 Film Studio — the sole movie wing of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) that is best known for churning out epic war features.

Mr. Jiang, who also heads the Communist Party and the all-powerful Central Military Commission, urged filmmakers to produce "more refined" movies that would help promote the domestic industry while at the same time espousing socialist values.

"We should give a big push to our socialist culture and ideology while doing a good job of our material civilisation. This is our resolute policy," Mr. Jiang said.

China's state-run film industry, dogged by poor quality productions, has been in free fall since 1979, with box office takings plunging from 29.3 billion yuan ($3.4 billion) to 9.5 billion yuan in 1993.

Dissatisfaction with the quality of domestic productions as well as their outdated propaganda content has been reflected in the popularity of foreign blockbuster imports, such as The Fugitive, True Lies and Bridges Over Madison County.

Nevertheless, Mr. Jiang, while admitting the need for "new initiatives and ideas," made it clear that, from the August 1 Studio at least, the party expected ideologically correct productions.

The studio should "make more good military films in an effort to uphold patriotism and revolutionary heroism," Mr. Jiang said.

Fresh excavations clarify more aspects of Ridge Church at Petra

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

A third, one-week-long season of excavations at a Byzantine church in Petra has clarified more of the architectural history of the structure, while also possibly offering tantalising glimpses of medieval defensive systems based on cutting off access routes into the city-centre. The excavation of the Ridge Church at Petra, directed by Dr Patricia M. Bikai of the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman, has also uncovered inscriptions in Latin and Greek that may clarify aspects of the Roman period history of Petra.

The Ridge Church can only be roughly dated to the 5th-6th Centuries AD, due to the paucity of excavated material remains. It is located at the north-western edge of the Byzantine town, about 160 metres northwest of the Petra Church (the one with the splendid mosaic floor and rare papyri scrolls, excavated and restored in recent years by an ACOR team). Due to erosion, possible deliberate dismantling, or reuse of its stones elsewhere, all the church's walls and other standing structures have disappeared, leaving only the foundation remains.

This year's excavations clarified the architectural design of this typical Byzantine church, which had a central nave ending in an apse flanked by two side aisles. The main church body measures 18 x 13.5 metres, and has a 3-metre-deep narthex or portico along its west side. A rock-cut and fully plastered cistern was dug out beneath the western end of the nave. The column bases, drums and capitals in the church were reused from earlier Nabataean/Roman buildings.

Matching design with terrain

This year's excavation provided further confirmation of how the architect had to reconcile the layout of the church with the hilly terrain at his disposal, including bulging bits of bedrock. The two aisles are of different widths, and at the end of the northern aisle the problem of rising bedrock was solved by inserting steps between the aisle proper and the pastophorium (the squarish room at the end of the aisle, flanking the main apse).

The chancel area, raised above the east end of the nave, was remodelled in antiquity and at one point was covered in mosaics of simple, large white cubes, perhaps with some coloured patterns. The 1995 dig produced more firm evidence for glass and stone wall mosaics inside the church.

Two column bases in the narthex, at the west end of the church, helped support the narthex roof. Three steps lead down from the narthex to the lower courtyard, to the west side of which the excavators found a 2 x 2-metre area of burnt material, including some nails and pieces of lead.

(One of the narthex steps, uncovered in 1995, was made of an upside down stone with a fragmentary Latin inscription, now being studied by Zbigniew T. Fiema. The relatively rare use of Latin in ancient Petra confirms the "official" nature of the inscription and its relatively early date — not later than the 3rd century AD, according to Mr Fiema. The commemorative text may have been attached to a statue or some other monument. It mentions a well known military unit of the Roman army, the Ala II Ulpia Auriana, an army regiment that was based in Cappadocia, now in modern Turkey; it may commemorate a military commander already known from other sources, and who may have been a native of Petra who had risen in the ranks and once served in Cappadocia.)

Reused Nabataean designs

The lower courtyard of the church was cleared this year to reveal two doors on the south and west sides. Two column bases and drums on stylobates, in their original positions, and nearly 100 architectural fragments were recovered from this area, including eight parts of engaged column bases and capitals, and part of a carved Nabataean entablature with triglyphs and circles in the metopes (the common ancient decorative pattern of alternating circles and three vertical lines).

These pieces may suggest that engaged columns framed a doorway or niche over which stood the entablature, in the unexcavated western part of the lower courtyard. Dr Bikai told the Jordan Times in a recent interview in Amman. These architectural elements are thought to date from the 1st Century AD, when Nabataean Petra was at its height.

The southern approach to the church was cleared this year and revealed a broad step, leading to the main entrance of the church.

Some of the architectural fragments recovered were found together in a corner of the church, suggesting to Dr Bikai that they were dumped into a natural depression near the stairs in relatively modern times, when farmers levelled the land for agricultural use.

This levelling probably destroyed the mosaics of the chancel area.

New inscription fragment

An exciting new find this year was a large fragment of a monumental inscription in Greek letters, with only four letters visible — not quite enough to attempt a reconstruction.

The size of the letters is impressive, each measuring 22 centimetres high, indicating the important (probably imperial) nature of the inscription. The size of the letters may make this the largest known script from ancient Petra.

The 1996 season continues to strengthen Dr Bikai's hypothesis that the church, once it went out of use, was ravaged by deliberate defensive actions by the post-Byzantine residents of Petra. Hundreds of water-washed cobbles found in the northwest corner of the excavated area in 1995 could only have come from the Wadi Abu 'Ullayqa below, she notes, and more such stones were found this year in the northern part of the lower courtyard. Perhaps, she says, the stones and many of the church's now-missing architectural elements were used as missiles against hostile attackers who tried to enter Petra through the wadi — the last defensible entry point into the city from the north.

A glimpse at history?

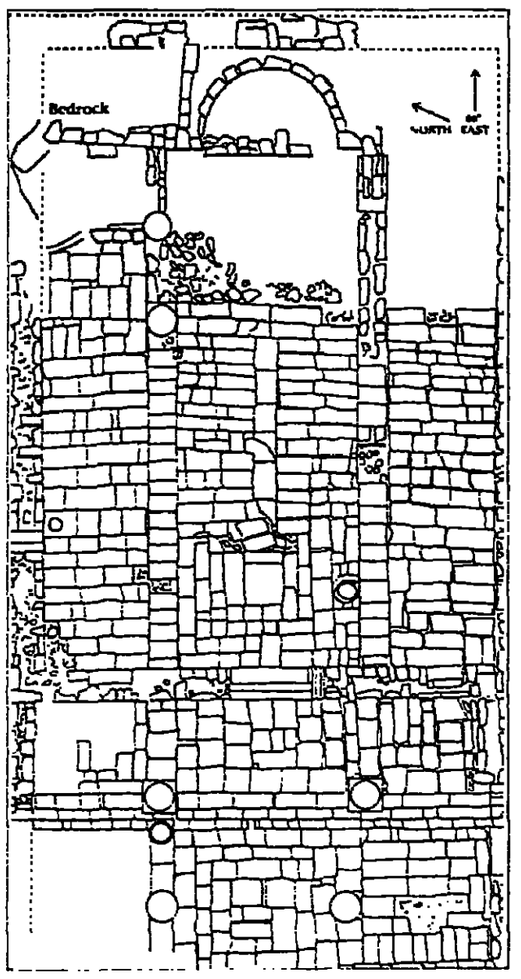
She quotes local residents of Petra as recounting that from the northern part of the lower courtyard it would be possible to cut the route into Petra through Wadi Abu 'Ullayqa, and also that a similar collection of stones exists at another such strategic site to the east that can cut off the wadi entrance to the city.

"We may be seeing here only the faintest glimpse of an incident or series of incidents during the long dark age of Petra," Dr Bikai said. "The destruction of the church building thus may have been due to a combination of erosion, deliberate dismantling, and agricultural clearing."

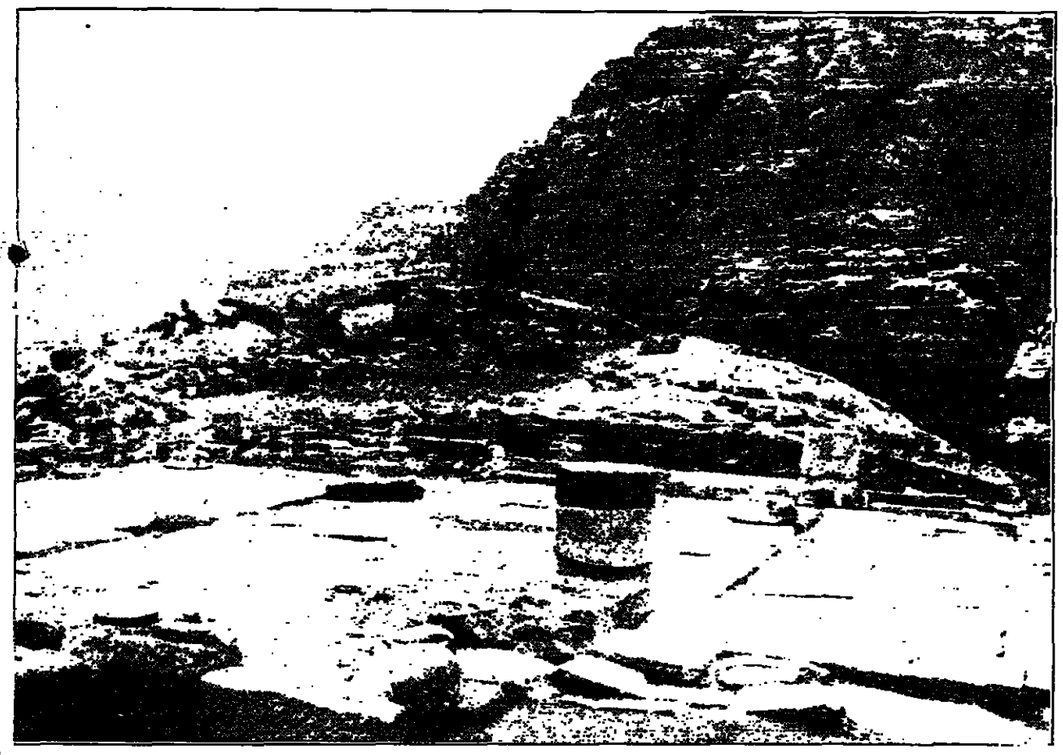
There is evidence that the church was built in more than one stage, and that it may have used walls of buildings from earlier periods.

There are not enough material remains to date the church more precisely than from the 5th-6th centuries AD. The pottery shards collected at the site spanned a very wide time period from the 1st century AD (Nabataean wares) until modern times.

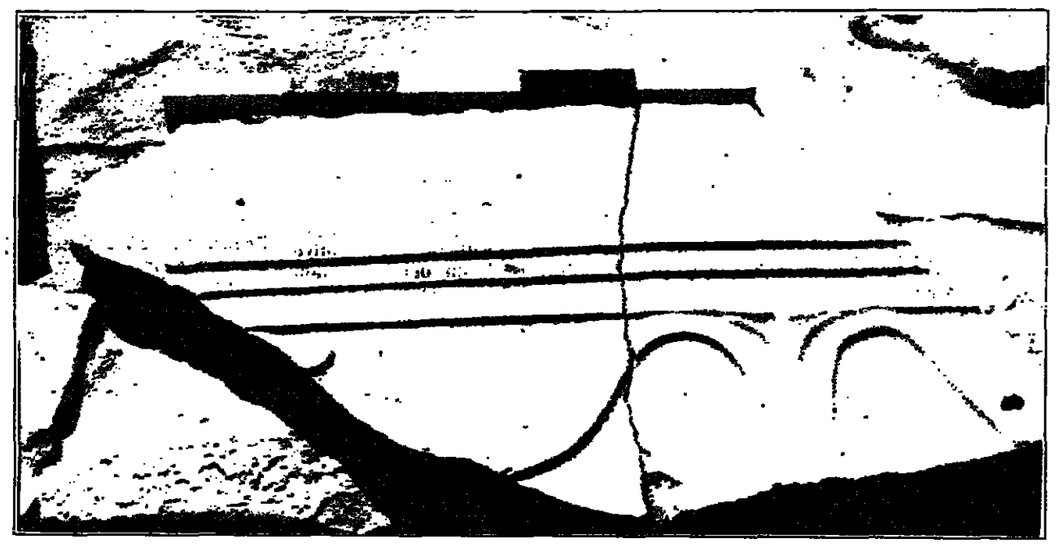
The excavation was sponsored and funded by the American Centre of Oriental Research in Amman. The assistant director was Virginia Egan and the architect was Dr. Pierre Bikai. Conservation work was undertaken by Na'if Zaban, and most of the workers were provided by the Jordanian Department of Antiquities.



Plan of the Ridge Church as excavated to date (plan by Pierre Bikai, Virginia Egan, Patricia Bikai)



Ridge Church, with Umm Al Biyara in the background (photos by Patricia Bikai)



A fragment of the marble chancel screen recovered at the Ridge Church

King meets Clinton today

(Continued from page 1)

The U.S. government said on Tuesday it had formally told Congress it intended to supply F-16 warplanes to Jordan and officials said the long-discussed deal was expected to go through by the end of July.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, standing alongside King Hussein, told reporters: "I'm glad to say in the presence of the King that we have sent the notification with respect to the F-16s to Capitol Hill."

Mr. Christopher said: "That's a very important step in the process and we intend to proceed with that in the customary way."

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said the notification was made on June 5. "We would expect that this would go through and that the F-16s would be transferred by this summer. I would think by ... the end of July," he said.

The move is a formality that gives the legislature a chance to object. But with Israel having already given its support for the deal, Congress is thought unlikely to try to block it.

"We think that those F-16s are an important aspect of the security of Jordan," Mr. Christopher said. "They're really a reflection of what President Clinton has said so many times... and that is for those who have taken the risks for peace, the United States wants to help them and to help them to minimise the risks of peace."

King Hussein has met with U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry and discussed with him bilateral relations and military cooperation in terms of providing Jordan with its defence needs.

The American side expressed their appreciation for Jordanian army and the role it plays to maintain security and stability, particularly in peacekeeping forces, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Attending the audience on the Jordanian side were Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, the King's Military Secretary HRH Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's Adviser for National Security Mustafa Qaisi and Jordan's Ambassador to U.S. Fayez Tarawneh. It was attended on the American side by senior military officials.

Washington is keen to see Jordan play a greater role in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process because it is "the only Arab country which enjoys the confidence of all Israelis whether they are right or left-wing," the official in Amman said.

Recognising the need to win over the King, Likud leader Netanyahu sent one of his top aides to Amman shortly after his May 29 election victory with a message reaffirming his commitment to peace.

King Hussein will be the first Arab leader to meet with Mr. Clinton, who implicitly backed Mr. Peres to stay on as Israel's prime minister, since Mr. Netanyahu's shock victory.

Mr. Clinton will also have a chance to judge for himself when he meets with the Likud leader for talks tentatively scheduled for the end of the month in Washington.

Minister of Information Marwan Muasher, who is accompanying the King, told Jordan Television that Jordan considers peace "a strategic choice for the Middle East region."

"All we want is to give impetus to the peace process to move forward on all tracks as well as to support Jordan as a model of countries that encourages a comprehensive peace based on economic integration between the Middle East states," he said.

"Jordan is participating in the coming Arab summit in Cairo June 21-23 to resume the peace process and to build on what has been achieved so far in the peace process," the minister added.

On Wednesday, the King met with prominent Arab Americans at his residence in Washington.

The King said he was striving for a peace in the Middle East that the future generations could enjoy.

Future generations should enjoy peace and full rights in an atmosphere of coexistence, he said.

The King said Jordan restored its rights and its land through its peace treaty with Israel and was fully supportive of the Palestinians' quest to regain their full rights on their national soil.

The peace process will continue on all tracks despite all obstacles that might hinder its progress, he said.

Attending the meeting was Mr. Kabariti, Dr. Khasawneh, Mr. Qaisi, Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kawar, Minister of Justice Abdul Karim Dughmi, Dr. Muasher and Ambassador Tarawneh.

King and Peres honoured

(Continued from page 1)

where the U.S. Constitution was adopted in 1787.

The award is given to an individual or group which has, in the words of the prize announcement, "demonstrated leadership and vision in the pursuit of liberty of conscience or freedom from oppression, ignorance, or deprivation."

Previous winners have included South African President F.W. de Klerk and African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela in 1993, Czech President Vaclav Havel in 1994 and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata in 1995.

Ekeus: Iraq may be hiding arms

(Continued from page 1)

Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said Baghdad allowed a U.N. team Tuesday to "inspect six installations in the Abu Gharib region and we have prevented them from visiting two others belonging to the Republican Guards for security reasons."

Since March the United Nations had "been pretending to search for something hidden and each time their inspection has failed to achieve anything," he said, quoted by the official agency INA. "But they keep coming back and for some time they have wanted to provoke us" by trying to gain access to sensitive areas, he charged.

"We did not bar them access because we have something to hide, as the experts are pretending, but because these are sites important to our security," he said.

"It is our right not to permit access to sites linked to our sovereignty to foreigners from countries hostile to Iraq."

Mr. Aziz said Iraq's permanent U.N. representative, Nizar Hamdoun, had proposed to Security Council president Egypt to "send a special delegation to Baghdad of permanent council members and the presidency to inspect all installations that UNSCOM suspects of containing hidden products or documents.

"We want the permanent members of the Security Council to intervene to certify that we have nothing to hide and that we are respecting our commitments.

A U.N. spokesman said meanwhile the international community hopes that an Iraq-U.N. oil-for-food deal will not be affected by the current standoffs between Iraqi authorities and U.N. inspectors.

U.N. spokesman Ahmad Fawzi commented at a news briefing that the latest standoffs in Iraq came at "a very sensitive time in relations between the U.N. and Iraq."

"The international community is very concerned that it does not affect the recently concluded MoU with Iraq."

Iraqi and U.N. negotiators on May 20 signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) enabling Iraq to resume limited oil exports in return for humanitarian supplies to help ease the suffering of the sanctions-hit Iraqi people.

Likud opens line for talks

(Continued from page 1)

ment faxed to news organisations.

The outgoing Labour government asked foreign diplomats not to visit the Orient House, but stopped short of barring such contacts.

The Netanyahu communique also called on foreign diplomats "to act responsibly during this period of transition, before the formation of the new government, and not to engage in activities which could endanger the peace process."

The statement was prompted by Tuesday night's meeting at the Orient House between Mr. Husseini and two consuls representating Western governments, including the United States.

Mr. Netanyahu and Likud view the Orient House as a threat to Israeli claims of "sovereignty" over all of Jerusalem.

The United States on Tuesday strongly defended Israel's right to delay redeploying troops from Hebron under the peace deal signed with the Palestinians.

"We've all got to live in the real world... The real world is there's been a democratic election (in Israel)... It is rational and reasonable to give the new prime minister, an elected prime minister, some time to form a government. And we're not going to try to hasten that pace," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters.

Under the peace accord signed with PLO last September, Israel was to redeploy its troops from Hebron, the last of seven West Bank cities affected by June 12.

After his election defeat Mr. Peres said he would leave the task to the new Israeli leader.

At a news briefing, Mr. Burns deflected questions about the impact and precedent set by discarding deadline in the peace agreement. Even if Mr. Netanyahu took the full 45 days alotted to form a government, Mr. Burns said, "We're not going to be critical... We ought to all just sit back, be patient, think about other things and we'll get back to this when the government's formed."

Israel's internal intelligence agency has urged Mr. Netanyahu to respect peace commitments to the Palestinians as the only means for curbing nationalist violence, military officials said.

Ami Ayalon, the recently-appointed head of the Shin Bet secret service, met with Mr. Netanyahu the day after his election victory to stress the extensive cooperation which has developed between Israel and the PNA in battling political violence.

Officials said Mr. Ayalon credited the Palestinian police with a major role in preventing further anti-Israeli attacks following a wave of suicide bombings in February and March which killed 58 people in Israel.

He singled out Palestinian help in the May 17 arrest in Hebron of Hassan Salameh, a senior figure in the armed wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), and said Palestinian police had provided vital intelligence which helped foil numerous attacks.

"This information has become particularly precious since Israeli security can no longer count on intelligence gathering by the network of collaborators it used to have in the occupied territories before the start of Palestinian autonomy," said Yossi Melman, an Israeli anti-terrorism expert.

"Shin Bet recruited huge numbers of informers under the occupation, but that time is past and it has become much more difficult to obtain reliable information or recruit new informers," he told AFP.

Peres to announce plans later

(Continued from page 1)

terior Minister Haim Ramon, have been attacking each other fiercely in recent days over who is to blame for the defeat.

Mr. Ramon was in charge of the overall campaign, while Mr. Barak was Mr. Peres' personal strategist.

Aides to Mr. Peres and officials close to Mr. Ramon, who is considered Mr. Barak's main rival for party leadership, accused the foreign minister this week of plotting a palace coup to grab the top spot.

Mr. Netanyahu beat Mr. Peres by barely one per cent of the total vote last month and his Likud Party won only 32 seats in the 120-member parliament, compared to 34 for Labour.

Likud officials said they expected Mr. Netanyahu to finish negotiations on forming a coalition government, notably involving religious parties, by early next week.

The new parliament is due to hold its inaugural session on Monday.

Syria seeks growth in GDP to match population boom

LONDON (R) — Syria wants its economic growth to match population growth and has liberalised trade and investment, attracting foreign companies, Selim Yassin, Syria's deputy prime minister for economic affairs said Tuesday.

"The main target is to achieve the highest possible rate of growth in GDP (gross domestic product)," Mr. yassin told a conference held by the Confederation for British Industry.

"This is needed because of the relatively high rate of population growth, the fair demand for a higher standard of living and to restore equilibrium to the balance of trade, balance of payments and to revenues and expenditures of the budget," he said.

Syria's population of 16 million is growing at an annual rate of 3.5 per cent, among the fastest for developing countries.

In 1995 its GDP was about 125.6 million Syrian pounds ($3 million). GDP has grown annually at an average 7.02 per cent, at constant prices, from 1990 to 1995.

The country is targeting development in agriculture, the oil and gas industry, exploration and exploitation of other natural resources, agricultural processing industries, electrical distribution and telecommunication networks and tourism.

"These opportunities are available for Syrians, Arabs and foreigners as well," said Mr. yassin.

Syria started moving away from a centrally-planned, government controlled economy in 1970.

The private sector currently handles 90 per cent of agriculture and 70 per cent of trade. Electricity, ports, water, communications and public transport are run by the government while petrol, cotton and cereals are in the public sector.

Other speakers at the conference also emphasised the need for foreign investment but warned that change is coming slowly in Syria and patience is needed.

It relaxed foreign exchange controls in 1990 and is beginning to pay more attention to banking and finance, particularly from foreigners, said Rateb Shalleh, president of the Union of the Syrian Chambers of Commerce.

The private sector is finding it more difficult to pay the relatively costly interest on loans obtained outside the Syrian official banking system, which has not provided the debt financing required at reasonable terms and conditions, he said.

Political issues, meanwhile, continue to cloud the economic outlook. Both the British ambassador to Syria, Adrian Sindall, and the chief executive of the British Arab Commercial Bank Ltd., Mohammad Fazzani, said the election of right-wing leader Benyamin Netanyahu as Israeli prime minister poses uncertainties.

"The problems confronting us with the peace process do cause us concern," said Mr. Sindall.

Chirac warns of globalisation's 'downside'

GENEVA (R) — French President Jacques Chirac, warning that globalisation of the world economy has its downside, called Tuesday for countries to ensure that benefits filter down to the greatest number of workers.

In a speech to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), he said rules of global trade should reinforce minimum ILO labour standards, such as bans on forced labour and child slavery.

Mr. Chirac said the social dimension of international trade should appear on the agenda of trade ministers when they meet at the first ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation in Singapore in December.

The United States and France are calling for discussion of a "trade and labour" link — the so-called "social clause" — at Singapore, but this is fiercely resisted by the governments of developing countries.

Globalisation was already imposing rapid and painful restructuring in industrialised nations, with an adverse effect on employment, the French president said. In the poorest countries it was liable to lead to greater inequality.

"We must therefore learn to control this process of globalisation better," Mr. Chirac told the ILO annual meeting.

"We must ensure that its benefits reach the greatest number of people, by striving in our own countries to diminish the risk of excluding individuals or sections within our own societies."

In order for globalisation to succeed for the benefit of all — whether in the industrialised countries or in the countries in transition, in the emerging countries or in the very poorest countries — "the economy must be made to serve people and not people the economy," Mr. Chirac declared.

"Above all, we need to invest in people, allowing each and every worker access to life-long vocational training, to enable them to adapt to the rapid far-reaching economic and technological changes which globalisation makes unavoidable," the French president emphasised.

"We need active policies to help the most vulnerable people in society to return to work, by adjusting our tax and welfare systems so as to 'make work pay'," he added.

Iraq seeks Gulf help to export oil

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Iraq has for the first time in six years sent a high-ranking delegation to two Arab Gulf states seeking help in exporting crude oil under a landmark deal with the United Nations, officials said Wednesday.

The shipping delegation, headed by director of the Iraqi Ports Authority Hassan Al Maeeni, is currently in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) after earlier talks in Qatar.

Mr. Maeeni is seeking tug boats for oil tankers and technical assistance from the ports in the two Gulf states, the officials said.

"We have reached an initial agreement to supply the Iraqis with two tug boats to assist in loading at the Iraqi Al Bakr port," said Salim Obaid Mubarak, general manager of the Dubai-based Mubarak Shipping Company.

"Iraq has many tug boats but they need repair and maintenance. Our boats will tow the Iraqi oil tankers to port to load oil and then tow them out of port. We expect our boats to reach Iraq in two weeks," he told AFP.

The Mubarak company has invited the Iraqi delegation to Dubai, the biggest commercial and shipping centre in the oil-rich region. They were due to hold talks Wednesday at Dubai's Rashid and Jebel Ali ports, among the biggest 20 harbours in the world.

Mr. Maeeni said his talks with the Dubai port officials would cover cooperation in shipping, adding the emirate had advanced navigational technology and a long experience in container activity.

Quoted by the UAE Al Khaleej newspaper, he said Iraqi ports, which were damaged by the 1991 allied onslaught to retake Kuwait from Baghdad's invasion forces, were now ready to receive all types of vessels.

"We have repaired the ports and they are now ready to export oil and receive ships. Shipping routes have also completely been cleared of mines since 1992 by Western and Japanese companies," he said.

Mr. Maeeni was referring to mines left from Iraq's 1980-1988 war with Iran, which sought to disrupt shipping and oil exports to the West to put pressure on Iraq. Over the past two years, Iraqi ports had received 52 vessels, he added.

Under its oil-for-food accord with the United Nations last month, Iraq will be permitted to export $2 billion worth of crude every six months — around 700,000 barrels per day (bpd) at current oil prices.

The accord, which will allow Iraq to export crude for the first time since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, prompted the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) last week to increase its official output ceiling, allocating Baghdad 800,000 bpd, nearly a quarter of its pre-war quota.

In Doha, the Iraqi delegation discussed with Qatari authorities ways of helping to reexport goods from abroad to Iraqi ports, if Iraqi warehouses became too full.

Ivory Coast out to become economic 'elephant of Africa'

ABIDJAN (AFP) — Ivory Coast is out to emulate the Asian economic "tigers" by becoming the "elephant of Africa," participants at a energy and minerals forum were told here.

Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan said the aim was to diversify beyond the traditional export commodities of coffee and cocoa.

Foreign investors heard that Ivory Coast was rich in minerals, including bauxite, copper, gold, iron, manganese and nickel, while offshore oil fields were showing promise with an output of 30,000 barrels a day.

The port of Abidjan will become the "rotterdam of Africa," authorities said.The government is offering tax and other incentives to attract investors.



"What do you think? Are we really happy together...or are we just too tired to fight?"

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JUNE 13, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Fascinating allies will provide you with backing your need today if you ask for it tactfully and then get your obligations met quickly so that you can move on to other necessary activities which are pressing.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A bigwig could be demanding in the morning today, however, later you can handle financial and property interests as well. This evening will be good for you to seek the advice of some knowledgeable person on a new project.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get important duties handled early today since later tonight you can get into new activities for greater expansion and success. This evening should be spend with fellow associates in brainstorming some new ideas on career activities.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) First perfect a talent you possess today, then bring it to the attention of some bigwig who can help you with it. Later tonight you should spend this time with your loved ones and participate in some special activities.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Handle a difficulty at home early today, then get in touch with some unusual individual for support for a pet project you have in mind and which needs a little push for its completion which this individual can provide.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Handle a pressing matter early in the day today and success can come to you very quickly which will be quite beneficial. A fellow associate is helpful in providing you with the necessary information.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Handle a financial matter of importance early in the daytime today, and then you can make time for amusements with close friends and loved ones later this evening which will provide everyone some time to relieve any tensions.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) It is important to first handle a personal affair today, since later this evening, some controversy at home will require original handling to avoid any conflicting attitudes by those who reside with you at this time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Rid yourself of a secret concern in the morning today, and then you can handle your correspondence brilliantly and thereby not make any mistakes in acknowledging everyone who you must contact by this evening.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A personal desire has to be attained in the morning today, and then get your home modernised for everyone who resides there or any important guests. Start a better budget later this evening so you have some extra funds.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take care of an outside matter early today, then you can pursue some unusual goals you have in mind which are career oriented. Later tonight is good for meeting with some bigwig and discuss your success for the days aheads.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A matter from a distance requires your attention in the morning today, however, later this evening, be concerned with private wish which concern your loved ones and you need to pursue without haste or there could be difficulties.

Birthstone of June: Emerald — Citrine

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JUNE 14, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Getting fine ideas how to gain your aims from close friends is wise during the daytime today, so pursue them with enthusiasm. Later tonight, study your career aspects privately so that no one will know of some secret plans.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Contact bigwigs with some fine idea you have in mind today and get their support and gain more public acclaim for your efforts, which will bring about your success. Later tonight, meet with close friends for some fun.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan how to gain prestige beyond present boundaries today and then gain the backing of a bigwig for good results which will bring you prestige and financial success. This evening can be spent with your mate out on the town.

MOON CHILDREN: (JUne 22 to July 21) Doing something more modern and getting out of that dull routine is wise today, so pursue whatever is necessary to make your life filled with more excitement. You gain more respect in your career activities with your efforts.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Widen your circle of friends today and include those whom you feel can give you added information which you need for some important career activities. Use care in motion especially while on the highway.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Gain modern advice today from a person in your own line of business and become more successful, if you follow the suggestions which are provided. Later this evening will be good for meeting with knowledgeable individuals.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Study into the recreations you like most and make appointments with close friends to enjoy them. Perfect a special talent which you have and which can make you both financially and career wise successful.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Even if you are in the business world at this time, think about how you can improve the situation at home with your loved ones. Later this evening you should consult with some authorities who can help you with some career tasks.

SAGITTARIUS:(November 22 to December 21) Contact those who can give you modern ideas and methods of operation today which can help you to gain greater prosperity and financial success. This evening will be good for seeing close friends and having some fun together.

CAPRICORN:(December 22 to January 20) It is important you become more progressive at this time where financial or property matters are concerned so that you are not left out in the cold without any funds or any place for you or your loved ones.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Put your ideas across to others today and you can be more successful, so get busy early this morning. Improve your appearance at this time and you will be noticed by those in authority who can make career soar high.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Step out of that rut you are in at this time and learn more about current inventions and conditions which when used will make your life and those of your loved ones more comfortable. Plan a new campaign of action.

Birthstone of June: Emerald — Citrine

JUMBLE® THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

INSEG

INYPP

PEMEXT

YORMME



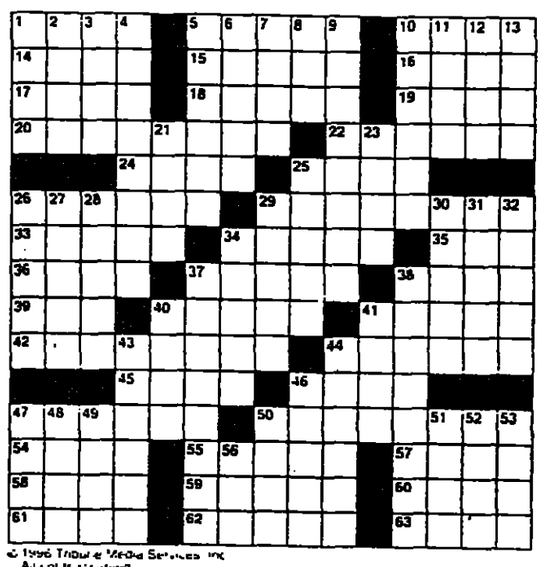
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here : ON AN

(Answers tomorrow)

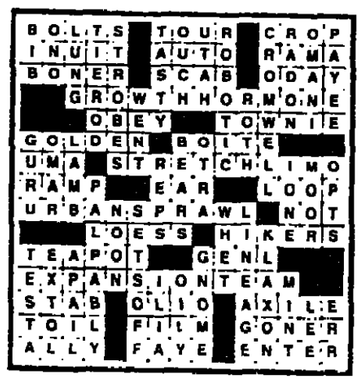
Yesterday's Jumbles: GUARD RAJAH QUENCH INSIST
Answer: How the farmer felt when he harvested his pumpkins — SQUASHED

THE Daily Crossword by Mary E. Brindamour



ACROSS
1 Sword handle
5 Cellular item?
10 Satiate
14 Olfactory stimulant
15 Descriptive term
16 Verdi opera
17 — majeste
18 Eat away slowly
19 Rouge et —
20 Computer fodder
22 Bewailed
24 Kimono belt
25 Fax a message
26 Bring into harmony
29 Hardened
33 In that place
34 Swings at flies
35 Bravo!
36 Daly of TV
37 Bosc and Bartlett
38 Make a call
39 I love: Lat
40 Buck or Bailey
41 Horse or bean
42 Fit for leasing
44 Predicaments
45 Priestly vestments
46 Insincere speech
47 Chestnut horse
50 Refuse admittance to
54 Break — (stage term)
55 Not active
57 Nick's wife
58 Abundant
59 Spunk
60 Study hard
61 Part of MIT: abbr.
62 Bridge expert
63 Sniggles

DOWN
1 Ship's storage area
2 Brainchild
3 Rapt
4 Pirate's quest
5 Polite word
6 Rough
7 Musical instrument
8 Beauty of films
9 Air, water, fire and earth
10 Ottawa's land
11 Pride leader
12 Garfield's pal
13 Type of stick
21 Deadly poison
23 Change for a fin
25 Tangle
26 Rose oil
27 Herb
28 Part of a joint
29 On to
30 Cuts of pork
31 Make happy
32 Aegean island
34 Fastens securely
37 Producing a rough surface
38 Mileage
40 Deficient in color
41 William or Sean
43 Bull's-eye
44 Weasel relative
46 Arc
47 Asian garment
48 Lena or Ken, entertainers
49 Ring officials
50 Land: abbr
51 Had on
52 Inland sea
53 Sweet potatoes
56 Recent: pref



Peanuts



Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff

B.A., American Airlines form world's largest alliance

LONDON (R) — British Airways (B.A.) and American Airlines announced Tuesday they were forging the world's largest airline alliance in a controversial deal that was almost certain to face regulatory hurdles.

The deal, the biggest of the current wave of link-ups in the airline industry, was also likely to face fierce opposition from other airlines, with B.A.'s archrival Virgin Atlantic Airways leading the charge with a pledge to thwart the plans.

"Our alliance with American Airlines is very good news for consumers, for our employees, for our shareholders, for the communities we serve and for the British aviation industry," B.A. chief executive Bob Ayling said in the announcing statement.

British Airways said the two airlines would coordinate operations of all of B.A.'s 244 flights a week from Britain to its 22 U.S. destinations and all of American's 238 flights a week from seven U.S. airports to 12 European destinations.

They said they would remain separate entities, would not exchange equity stakes and would seek swift progress on the regulatory issues that would need to be cleared up before implementing the proposed alliance.

Don Carty, president of American Airlines, told a conference call for financial analysts that he expected the U.S. departments of justice and transport to approve the scheme and allow an exemption from U.S. anti-trust rules within months.

"I'd be very surprised if the U.S. government couldn't accomplish this within the next couple of months," he said.

B.A.'s Ayling said the two companies had been in contact with the British authorities on the other half of the regulatory equation — the need for a bilateral "open skies" access deal between Britain and the United States — and this had been positive enough for the alliance to be announced.

But he denied that any deal had been sewn up in advance.

"We have been discussing this transaction in confidence with the British government and we have had the indication from them that they would be willing to enter into discussions with the United States government," he affirmed.

Richard Branson, Virgin Atlantic's high-profile owner, immediately pledged to prevent the alliance from going ahead. "We will stop it," Mr. Branson told Reuters in an interview.

He said Virgin would lobby the U.S. Justice Department hard and blitz the media with an advertising campaign if the alliance looked like being waived through by U.S. and U.K. authorities.

"If this British government wants to portray itself as the friend of big business and not the friend of competition, then we will...spend a great deal of money making sure the public realise what it's all about," Mr. Branson said.

Mr. Branson kicked off his campaign against the deal by hiring a a red double-decker London bus to drive by B.A.'s news conference at London's plush Waldorf Hotel, carrying a brass band and decked with hand-written banners declaring "B.A., no way".

If the B.A.-American alliance is approved, analysts said it will end years of heartache for both carriers in their search for a suitable alliance on the key transatlantic market, where some 70 airlines compete on routes from Europe to the Americas.

Industry executives say the proposed alliance could lead to Britain agreeing to give all U.S. airlines access to London's Heathrow airport, the world's busiest international hub.

Britain and the United States have been trying for the last five years to agree an "open skies" deal to replace their 1977 Bermuda II Air Transport Treaty which heavily restricts which airlines can fly where between the two countries.

The main sticking points have been American Airlines' insistence on getting open access to Heathrow.

British Airways, which has 38 per cent of all runway slots at London's major airport, have insisted open access should be denied unless the United States lifts its 25 per cent limit on foreign ownership of U.S. Airlines.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 12/06/1996

	FAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	FAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
	250.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	12.1	1.58	1	20	4430	222.00	221.50	.50-
	4.780	4.180	JOR.NATIONAL BK.	13.0	3.26	1	400	1720	4.32	4.30	.02-
	3.800	3.250	BANK OF JORDAN	22.3	0.00	7	2886	9753	3.40	3.40	-
	2.700	2.220	INDUSTRIAL DEV.BK.	5.1	6.24	7	2400	5339	2.23	2.23	-
	3.040	2.600	JOR.KUWAIT BANK	20.1	0.00	2	249	688	2.75	2.78	.03+
	1.400	.920	JOR.GULF BANK	5.8	7.22	17	14024	13464	.97	.97	-
	4.000	3.700	ARAB JOR.INV.BK.	19.0	0.00	1	130	555	3.70	3.70	-
	4.180	3.300	JOR.ISLAMIC BANK	28.6	0.00	7	2700	10437	3.87	3.87	-
	4.000	1.900	THE BUSINESS BK.	9.1	0.00	2	1150	2185	1.90	1.90	-
	1.200	.410	AMMAN BANK INV.	g	0.00	15	13800	6210	.45	.45	.01-
	1.930	1.070	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	g	0.00	7	2000	2315	1.18	1.18	-
	BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 175.77	%CHG: -0.17	67	39779	57095			
+	2.910	2.290	JOR FRENCH INSUR.	6.4	5.77	1	250	570	2.29	2.28	.01-
+	3.400	2.800	YARMOUK INSUR.	g	0.00	1	200	532	2.80	2.66	.14-
	INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 122.91	%CHG: -0.37	2	450	1102			
	1.900	1.530	JOR.ELECTRIC PWR.	10.8	7.69	23	22682	35402	1.56	1.56	-
	1.560	1.140	IRBID ELECTRICITY	8.8	7.41	1	50	68	1.35	1.35	-
	2.960	2.400	SHIPPING LINES	10.1	8.33	1	100	240	2.40	2.40	-
	2.860	1.190	NATL. PORTFOLIO	g	0.00	5	1250	1674	1.36	1.33	.03-
	3.660	3.090	ARAB INTL.INV.EDUC.	12.5	6.35	3	1000	3150	3.17	3.15	.02-
	1.500	.980	ZARKA EDUCATION	g	0.00	12	7400	7622	1.02	1.03	.01+
	2.540	1.870	UNIFIED CO.	10.9	4.83	5	1550	3181	2.05	2.07	.02+
E	1.200	.820	UNION LAND DEV.	E	0.00	6	2400	2401	1.01	1.01	-
	SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 116.36	%CHG: -0.12	56	36432	53737			
	1.350	1.170	ATTAQUEEB	g	0.00	5	1520	2900	1.25	1.25	-
	3.950	3.270	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	19.4	2.94	28	6374	21505	3.45	3.40	.05-
	3.550	2.900	JOR.PHOSPHATE MINES	31.7	0.00	3	826	1254	2.95	2.95	-
	6.960	4.750	ARAB POTASH CO.	16.9	3.81	4	440	2299	5.20	5.25	.03-
	10.700	8.900	JOR. PETROL.REFINARY	13.7	5.87	46	7952	80625	10.17	10.22	.05+
	1.670	1.380	WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	63.1	0.00	1	1100	1562	1.38	1.42	.04+
+	3.800	2.760	INDUSTRIAL COMM.MCR.	25.2	0.00	2	89	233	2.76	2.62	.14-
	8.400	7.000	JOR.WORSTED MILLS	9.1	3.52	1	500	3550	7.10	7.10	-
	5.410	3.410	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	19.3	5.70	25	8839	30989	3.54	3.51	.03
	2.600	2.160	JORDAN DAIRY	13.8	6.67	1	100	225	2.25	2.25	-
	2.530	1.620	RAFIA INDUSTRIES	P	0.00	2	350	574	1.66	1.64	.02-
	8.250	4.710	DAR AL-DAWA DV.INV.	13.9	3.93	6	800	3982	5.15	5.09	.06-
+	6.240	4.010	ARAB ALUM.IND.	6.3	10.00	2	500	2000	4.01	4.00	.01-
	.740	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	g	0.00	30	45350	27367	.62	.60	.02-
	1.500	1.180	ARAB PAPER CONV.IND.	8.4	8.35	25	13300	16346	1.22	1.24	.02+
	2.650	1.310	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	g	0.00	7	1800	2324	1.26	1.30	.04+
	1.450	.810	NATIONAL INDS.	12.1	7.32	17	14450	11772	.82	.82	-
	2.650	1.060	INTERMED.PETRO.CHEM.	g	0.00	64	21700	29075	1.38	1.33	.05-
	1.770	.950	JOR. SULPHO-CHEM	g	0.00	10	1500	1500	1.01	1.00	.01-
	2.380	1.080	ARAB PHARM.CHEM.	30.7	0.00	63	41250	67307	1.65	1.64	.01-
	1.820	1.400	KAWTHER INVEST.	11.7	0.00	1	100	142	1.44	1.41	.03-
	2.480	2.380	ARIV. MOD. INDS.	7.7	7.92	8	3800	9660	2.49	2.53	.04+
	3.280	1.380	JOR.INDS.RESOURCES	99.0	0.00	23	11250	16929	1.63	1.51	.02-
	2.000	1.000	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	31.5	0.00	24	29672	34245	1.18	1.16	.02-
	2.500	1.780	AL -BAY READY WEAR	P	0.00	12	6400	12566	1.95	1.98	.03+
	1.840	1.180	INTL. TOBACCO	29.4	0.00	15	10300	12875	1.25	1.25	-
	2.520	1.180	UNION CH. & VEG.	32.5	0.00	2	5500	7260	1.32	1.32	-
	INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 112.27	%CHG: -0.60	428	235611	400143			
	GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 143.61	%CHG: -0.35	553	312272	512077			

PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 12/06/1996

+	.450	.280	MID. EAST FOR DEV.	g	0.00	1	200	54	.28	.27	.01-
	.880	.700	JOR.TRADE FAC.	19.5	0.00	3	1000	730	.73	.73	-
E	1.480	1.050	ZARA FOR INVESTMENT	28.1	0.00	4	1750	2690	1.42	1.42	-
E	1.000	.760	UNION INV. 50%	76.8	0.00	10	8600	2590	.80	.80	-
	1.410	.630	ARAB FIN.INVEST.	g	0.00	7	8000	6080	.77	.76	.01-
	.690	.340	JOR.INDS.MATCH-JAMCO	g	0.00	3	5000	3050	.61	.61	-
	1.100	.630	ARAB FOOD & MED.	E	0.00	5	2850	1938	.68	.68	-
	1.920	1.380	NATL. CHLORINE	E	0.00	9	4932	7841	1.59	1.59	-
	.850	.520	ARAB INTL.INV.TRD.	g	0.00	5	2250	1413	.63	.62	.01-
	1.180	.600	NATL. TEXTILE	g	0.00	1	250	158	.63	.63	-
E	1.100	.700	NATL.MULT.ENG.NAMICO	E	0.00	11	3650	2810	.77	.77	-
+	1.150	.570	MAYSAR DIES & MOULDS	E	0.00	3	1250	700	.50	.56	.02
	1.150	.800	JORDAN STEEL	E	0.00	24	9712	8701	.91	.89	.02-
E	1.050	.480	I.TEXTILE MANUF.	g	0.00	5	1419	732	.53	.50	.03-
E	1.020	.660	PEARL SAN. P. CONV.	E	0.00	2	80	56	.69	.70	.01+
E	.970	.710	NATL. POULTRY 75%	K	0.00	3	5000	2300	.71	.71	-
E	1.500	.680	MID.EAST COMPLEX	E.2	0.00	30	29750	20660	.71	.70	.01-
E	5.500	3.950	ARAB STEEL PIPES	10.9	6.25	3	1850	7264	4.00	4.00	-
	GRAND TOTAL					158	124871	101289			

+ : New 12 months low
E : Listed during the past 12 months
P : P/E ratio is 100 or more
g : Negative P/E
E : Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year

Asia-Pacific air traffic to hit 200m passengers by 2000

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Air traffic to and from the Asia-Pacific region will reach 200 million passengers by 2000, propelled by liberalisation of air transport and development of new airports, a report has said.

Demand for air transport in the region is growing faster than in any other part of the world on the back of its rapid economic growth, said the report prepared by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Asia-Pacific passenger traffic grew at an average 10.3 per cent per annum between 1985 and 1993, reaching 112 million or 35.3 per cent of the world total, said the report entitled: Asia-Pacific Air Traffic Growth and Constraints.

The number of passengers travelling to and from the region is forecast to grow by 8.6 per cent a year from 1993 to 2000, reaching 200 million, or 41.2 per cent of the worldwide scheduled international air traffic, the report said.

It forecast a further 7.1 per cent growth in Asia-Pacific traffic between 2000 and 2010, reaching 398 million or 50.5 per cent of the world total.

IATA had prepared the *report for the air transport* action group comprising more than 90 airlines, aircraft manufacturers, airport operators, travel agents, consumer associations and other travel-related groups.

Air transport liberalisation, opening of new airports in such destinations as Macau, Hong Kong, Osaka, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok and the rising affluence and travel lust of Asians were cited as reasons for spurring travel.

Low traffic base in several countries with large travel potential, such as China and Vietnam, and expanding intra Asia-Pacific trade are other factors spurring on travel growth.

Japan, China and Hong Kong were forecast to register the largest increases in absolute terms in traffic between 1993 and 2010.

The report said Japan will remain as the region's dominant air traffic market, accounting for 53 million passengers by 2000 and 90.9 million by 2010, up from 34.9 million in 1993.

Hong Kong passenger traffic will reach 41.1 million by 2000 and 72.3 million in 2010, up from 24.4 million in 1993, it said.

China's traffic was projected to rise to 24.7 million by 2000 and 62.3 million by 2010, up from 8.3 million in 1993.

But Vietnam will achieve the most rapid growth, with traffic set to increase from barely 1.2 million passengers in 1993 to 3.9 million *in 2000 and 17.4 million by* 2010.

IATA said raising the number of flights, both new routes and increased frequencies, will become the most important way to cope with future travel demand in the Asia-Pacific.

DAILY BUSINESS BEAT

A review of news from the Arabic press

Travel, tourism offices go to court to demand cancellation of new tourism regulation

THE JORDAN Travel Agents Association (JTAA) has filed a lawsuit at the Higher Court of Justice to annul the *new tourism regulation and the "unjust articles" it* contains, JATT President Lamie Haddadin said. He said regulation No. 14 (1996) contravened the tourism law No. 20 (1988). He demanded that the articles requiring higher capital and financial guarantees be abolished. According to the new regulation, the Ministry of Tourism is imposing two types of guarantees. The first to be for JD 25,000 for classification purposes and the second, also for JD 25,000, for those offices which organise tour packages. The ministry is requesting the first guarantee to secure the rights of airline companies and offices as well as the public, Mr. Haddadin said. The JTAA counters that travel agents provide other additional guarantees in excess of the amount requested to airline offices and, as such, the airline companies have their rights guaranteed and there is no need for duplicity on the issue of guarantees.

As for the second guarantee, Mr. Haddadin pointed out that tourism and travel establishments seek to minimise the cost for the tourists coming to visit Jordan and to Jordanians, especially limited-income groups. By demanding an additional guarantee, he argued, "these offices will have additional costs which would result in making the Jordanian market unattractive and uncompetitive from a pricing point of view."

Mr. Haddadin said that there were other articles in the regulation that JTAA is seeking to rewrite. "We are not objecting to the regulation but we want to formulate a new modern one," he said describing the regulation issued by the ministry as a "collective punishment" of tourist offices. He asserted that between 200 and 250 of these offices would be forced to close for not being able to meet the requirements which also stipulate increasing the number of employees and issuing insurance policies to tourists.

According to the JTAA head, the insurance policies is an additional issue. "As long as the tourist is insured on the plane, in the tourist coach and at the hotel, then the tourist office should not be responsible for the personal actions of the tourist." Another point of concern, Mr. Haddadin said, was the attempts by some foreign tourist offices not to settle their financial obligations to the Jordanian offices *which incur losses as a result of that.*

"To stop some violation a new regulation should be formulated that would have a greater power that the strength of financial guarantees as seen by the ministry. Other penalties are required through formulating a new regulation that would protect the right fo everybody," Mr. Haddadin stressed. He said that the association had made many contracts and held many meetings with the officials of the ministry but all the efforts to reach an amicable solution have failed.

For its parts, the ministry has issued warnings to many tourist offices to implement the new regulations or have their offices closed (Al Aswaq).

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Dated: 12/6/1996

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7080	0.7100
Sterling Pound	1.0865	1.0919
Deutsche Mark	0.4605	0.4626
Swiss Franc	0.5593	0.5621

Other Currencies — Dated: 12/6/1996

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8620	1.8760
Lebanese Lira*	0.044425	0.045225
Saudi Riyal	0.1870	0.1895
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3310	2.3470
Qatari Riyal	0.1932	0.1945
Egyptian Pound	0.2100	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.8330	1.8410
UAE Dirham	0.1922	0.1933
Greek Drachma*	0.2835	0.3035

London Exchange Rates

London(R) —Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar on the London foreign exchange and bullion-markets Wednesday.

$1.00 cost	1.3652/62	Canadian dollar
	1.5352/62	German marks
	1.7192/02	Dutch guilders
	1.2644/54	Swiss francs
	31.58/62	Belgian francs
	5.2033/83	French francs
	1548.6/0.1	Italian lire
	109.28/38	Japanese Yen
	6.7090/90	Swedish crowns
	6.5580/30	Norwegian crowns
	5.9211/61	Danish crowns
	1.4088/98	Singapore dollars
	0.7916/21	Australian dollars
	7.7410/13	Hong Kong dollars
One Sterling	$1.5368/78	
Gold (ounce)	$384.80/385.30	

JORDAN MARKETPLACE

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Sonics tired of character question

Bulls could wrap up NBA title today

SEATTLE (R) — The Seattle Supersonics are tired of the character question.

One defeat away from being swept out of the NBA finals by the tough, experienced Chicago Bulls, the talented Sonics are being asked all over again whether they have what it takes mentally in a championship series, in view of their relative inexperience and recent history of underachievement.

"I really think that's a pressured, unfair pressure question," coach George Karl said at practice a day before Game 4. "This team's proven itself. I have all the belief in the world it's going to perform."

Karl pointed out that after being upset in the first playoff round the past two seasons, his Sonics travelled a tough road to the finals this year, surviving a scare against the Sacramento Kings, sweeping the defending champion Houston Rockets and grinding out a seven-game win over the Utah Jazz.

"This team is playing in the finals, and it's got here through a nightmare of Sacramento, a nightmare of two years, coming back against Utah when there was all types of criticism, beating a championship team in Houston.

"What else do you want? What else do you want?" Karl asked.

"My team played a bad basketball game in Game 3," he admitted. "Unfortunately, our bad game came on our homecourt in a must-win situation.

"But it's ludicrous (to question their character). We fought in Chicago with a tremendous amount of heart and guts."

Seattle's main man, Shawn Kemp, said dismissively: "Anytime that you lose ballgames at playoff time people are always going to come up with stories, they're always going to come up with something negative."

Kemp became a little testy when asked if he was prepared to assume the burden of "a true superstar" — putting his team on his back and carrying them.

"A true superstar is a player who goes out and plays to win," said Kemp.

"You don't see Michael Jordan putting his team on his back and scoring a hundred points every game. There's other guys over there playing. I don't know what you see, but I see it different, buddy."

Even the easy-going Sam Perkins came as close as he gets to impatience when asked if he was tired of the way Jordan's Bulls had seemingly already been "anointed" as champions.

"It's not that I'm tired of it," said Perkins. "I have to be here. I have to get through it."

Karl said he was considering starting Perkins, who already plays the bulk of Seattle's minutes at centre, instead of Ervin Johnson.

Karl admitted Johnson and backup swingman Vincent Askew are unhappy with their decreased playing time. "Vinnie and Ravin are both feeling that kind of mentality," he said.

But Kemp and guard Gary Payton denied any problem.

"This is ridiculous, everybody's fine," said Payton. "Nobody's upset about nothing."

"Those are just rumours," said Kemp. "I've heard about that stuff. I've talked to them guys. None of them guys have said anything. Vincent hasn't said anything, Ervin hasn't said anything."

While resenting the questions about their own maturity, the Sonics agreed that the Bulls' toughness is unmistakeable.

"Chicago is playing a 48-minute mentality that we have not seen over the past year," said Karl.

"They all seem to have that mental toughness that you need," said veteran guard Hersey Hawkins, who was forced to softly protest: "I don't think we're immature."

Karl admitted that if he had it all to do over again he would make a greater effort to protect his players from certain distractions in the finals.

"You go into practice and it just seems sometimes everybody's thinking about something else — where we're going afterwards, what's happening before, what are we doing tonight.

"Because of my superstition I didn't prepare for this round until we won Utah," said the first-time finals coach.

Karl chided the press for emphasising personal statistics and rapped the league's marketers for pushing the flashy aspects of the NBA game.

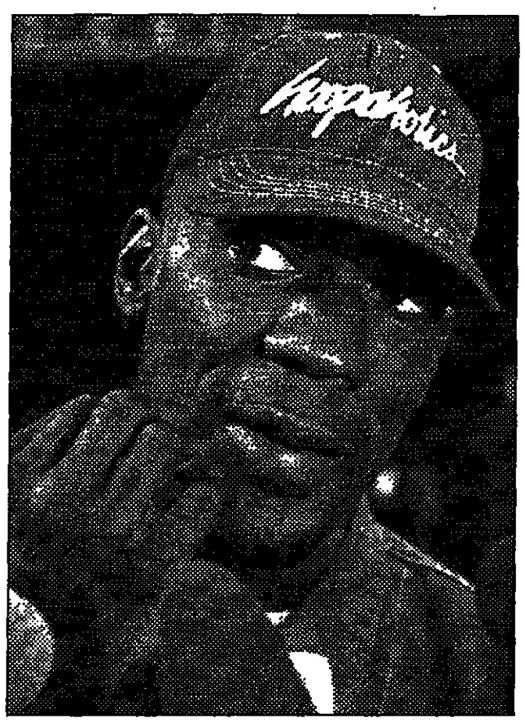
"As coaches we don't even understand what you're writing about half the time," he told reporters.

"We know what the guts of success are. And sometimes you get to it but... The marketing people have no clue about the guts.

"Al they want are slam dunks, blocked shots, behind-the-back passes. The one thing good about Dennis Rodman, he is bringing attention to a game that is dirty and tough and workmanlike."

That is the kind of game he expects from his Sonics tonight. "Tomorrow night will be a huge challenge to our pride," said Karl.

"Tomorrow is the biggest pride game," echoed Payton.



Seattle SuperSonics' forward Shawn Kemp talks to reporters about his team's chances in the NBA finals prior to practise in Seattle, June 11. The SuperSonics trail the Chicago Bulls 3-0 in the best-of-seven series. (Reuters photo)

Muster, Becker through at Queens

LONDON (AFP) — Top seed Thomas Muster and Boris Becker reached the third round of the Artois Tournament at Queen's Club here on Tuesday, but Muster had to fight to edge Guillaume Raoux of France in three sets.

The Austrian clay court specialist eventually came through 6-7 (5/7), 7-5, 7-6 (7/2), while Becker sailed past south African Chris Haggard in straight sets, 6-4, 6-2.

Earlier, Frenchman Guy Forget put aside a confrontation with an umpire to reach the second round by beating Chris Wilkinson of Britain 6-2 7-6 (7/1).

Ninth-seeded Forget, who beat Boris Becker before losing to Pete Sampras in last year's final, dominated the first before Wilkinson, ranked 136 in the world, fought back to have two set points at 5-4 in the second, only to squander them and lose on the tiebreak.

At one point in the second set, forget became angry with the umpire after Wilkinson was awarded the point when the Briton appeared to have illegally scooped a shot over the net.

Forget spent several minutes miming a replay of the incident as he sat on his chair between games.

"I thought it was one continuous movement and the shot was good," was Wilkinson's verdct.

In a first round encounter, Tim Henman, Britain's number one, defeated Argentina's 16th seed Javier Frana 6-7 6-4.

Australians Wayne Arthurs and Michael Tebbutt saw their interest in the tournament end when they went out to Martin Damm of the Czech Republic and dAvid Wheaton of the United States.

Major League Baseball

Bullett leads Cubs past Phillies

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Scott Bullett went 5-for-5 with a homer and four RBI and Mike Campbell allowed two runs over seven innings in his first start of the season to lead the Chicago Cubs to a 9-2 rout of the struggling Philadelphia Phillies Tuesday.

Bullett ignited a three-run first inning with a RBI single, added another in the fifth and hit a two-run homer in the sixth to give the Cubs a 9-2 lead. He entered the game hitting .222 (6-for-27) but saw his average rocket to .344.

"I was in one of those zones," Bullett said. "Every pitch that was coming, I was right on it. I think they could have thrown a golf ball and I would have hit it."

Campbell (1-0) gave up five hits, walked one and struck out five. Jim Bullinger retired the final six batters.

The Cubs extended their win streak to four and have won 10 of their last 11 meetings with the Phils, who have dropped six in a row, scoring just seven runs in their last five games.

In San Francisco, Nelson Liriano's two-run triple capped a five-run sixth inning and Denny Neagle allowed two runs over 5 2/3 innings to lift the Pittsburgh Pirates past the Giants, 7-2, completing a 7-1 west coast road trip.

The Pirates went 2-0 against the Giants, 3-0 against the San Diego Padres and 2-1 against the Los Angeles Dodgers on their current western swing.

The Pirates entered the sixth trailing 2-0 against Giants starter osvaldo fernandez (3-6), but rallied for five runs. Liriano's triple off reliever Jose Bautista capped the outburst to stake Pittsburgh to a 5-2 advantage.

In Montreal, Dave Silvestri's RBI single capped a seventh-inning rally as the Expos snapped a three-game slide with a 3-2 win over the Florida Marlins.

Trailing 2-1 entering the seventh, the Expos pushed across a pair of runs against Marlins starter Kevin Brown (4-5). Darrin Fetcher scored on a throwing error by second baseman Ralph Milliard to tie the game and Silvestri delivered a single to right, bringing home the winning run.

Tim Scott (2-1) retired the final batter in the seventh to notch the victory.

In New York, Tony Graffanino's sacrifice fly in the top of the 13th inning scored Chipper Jones to lift the Atlanta Braves to a 4-3 victory over the Mets.

Pedro Borbon (1-0) struck out two over 1 1/3 scoreless innings for the win and rookie Terrell Wade retired all three batters he faced in the 13th for his first career save.

New York rallied for a 3-2 lead in the seventh when lance Johnson's Major-League leading 10th triple sent home tim bogar. Atlanta tied it on a Jones sacrifice fly that sent home Marquis Grissom.

Paul Byrd (0-1) pitched the last two innings for the loss.

At Colorado, Trenidad Hubbard singled in Walt Weiss to snap an eighth-inning tie to boost the Rockies to a 7-5 victory over the Houston Astros.

Anthony Young (2-3) left in the eighth with runners on first and second and hubbard greeted Xavier Hernandez with a single up the middle for the go-ahead run.

Reliever Garvin Alston (1-0) retired the last two batters in the eighth for the win.

The Astros had tied the game at 5-5 with three runs in the seventh, sparked by Bill Spiers's two-run homer off rockies starter Kevin Ritz.

In Los Angeles, Donovan Osborne allowed one run in 7 2/3 innings and he and Brian Jordan drove in two runs apiece to lead the St. Louis Cardinals to a 6-3 win over the Dodgers.

Osborne (5-3) scattered nine hits, striking out three without a walk.

After the Dodgers pulled within 2-1 on an RBI single by Raul Mondesi in the bottom of the fourth, the Cards rebounded with runs in the fifth and sixth and two in the seventh.

Osborne helped his cause with an RBI double for a 4-1 lead. Gaetti went 4-for-5 with a rbi single and Jordan had two hits for St. Louis.

In San Diego, rookie Chad Mottola hit a two-run homer in the fourth inning and Kevin Jarvis allowed one run over 5 2/3 innings as the Cincinnati Reds beat the slumping Padres 4-1.

The Reds scored two runs in the third off starter Fernando Valenzuela (3-4) when Joe Oliver doubled homed Taubensee and Eric Owens lofted a sacrifice fly to score Oliver.

Cincinnati made it 4-0 in the fourth when Mottola's two-run shot off Valenzuela sailed over the centre-field wall.

Tony Gwynn had three hits, including a solo homer, for the Padres, losers of five in a row and eight of their last nine games.

Boston cools streaking White Sox

Mike Stanley capped a seven-run seventh inning with a three-run homer and Vaughn Eshelman allowed one earned run over seven innings as the Boston Red Sox cooled off the streaking White Sox with a 9-2 victory Tuesday.

The White Sox, who entered the game tied with Cleveland for the Central Division lead, saw a 10-game home winning streak end with only their fourth loss in in 23 games.

Leading 1-0 after six, the Red Sox put the game away by roughing up White Sox starter Joe Magrane (1-3) and two relievers for seven runs the following inning.

Jeff Frye had an RBI single, John Valentin followed with an RBI double, Jose Canseco singled home two runs and Stanley deposited Bill Simas' 2-1 pitch over the left-centre field wall for his seventh homer and an 8-2 lead.

Tim Naehring gave the Red Sox a 9-2 bulge with his 11th homer in the ninth to increase his batting average to .344.

"Naehring is a very solid player for us," said Boston Manager Terry Kennedy. "He hit a big home run and made two huge defensive plays against (Frank) Thomas. Things like that get this team pumped up."

Eshelman (2-2), who also beat the White Sox five days ago, allowed six hits. "The big key for them was that eshelman threw very well," White Sox manager Terry Bevington said.

In Cleveland, Manny Ramirez lifted a sacrifice fly with the bases loaded in the bottom of the 13th inning to score Albert Belle with the winning run as the Indians rallied for a 6-5 victory over the Oakland Athletics.

Chad Ogea (3-0), the Indians' seventh pitcher, worked a scoreless inning for the win, Cleveland's first in 19 games when trailing after eight innings.

Oakland took a 5-4 lead into the ninth, but Eddie Murray's sac fly with the bases loaded plated Julio Franco with the tying run. Murray collected three RBI to move past Carl Yastrzemski into sole possession of ninth place on the all-time list with 1,846.

At Minnesota, Dan Wilson had a five hits to pace a team-record 24-hit attack as the Seattle Mariners beat the Minnesota Twins 18-8, spoiling Rick Aguilera's return.

Wilson had two hits in Seattle's six-run fourth inning and had three RBI and two runs scored as he went 5-for-6 to raise his batting average to .316.

Alex Rodriguez and Joey Cora each had four hits and scored three runs for the mariners.

Aguilera, who was activated from the disabled list Monday, was tagged for 10 runs and 10 hits in three-plus innings. Bob Wells (6-1) got the win despite giving up five runs.

In Detroit, Cal Ripken homered and drove in three runs and Rafael Palmiero, Brady Anderson and Manny Alexander each had two-run singles as the Baltimore Orioles snapped a four-game losing streak with a 12-9 victory over the Tigers.

Rocky Coppinger (1-0) won his major-league debut, allowing four earned runs and seven hits in five innings.

The Tigers jumped to a 2-0 lead, but the Orioles struck for five runs in the third off starter Felipe Lira (3-6), sparked by Chris Hoiles' 10th homer.

In Toronto, Tino Martinez and Mariano Duncan homered and Andy Pettitte became the second 10-game winner in the American League as the New York Yankees continued their recent dominance of the Blue Jays with a 6-4 victory.

Pettitte (10-3) allowed four runs and eight hits over 6-2/3 innings, joining Cleveland's Charles Nagy in the 10-victory club. John Wetteland pitched a perfect ninth for his 16th save as the Yanks beat the Jays for the 16th time in their last 17 meetings.

In Kansas City, Jorge Fabregas had three hits and Chuck McEroy won for the second time in as many games as the California Angels rallied from a four-run deficit to beat the Royals 11-9.

Fabregas went 3-for-4 with a walk and had an RBI single in the fourth inning for the Angels, who erased a 6-2 deficit with a four-run fifth and a three-run seventh.

McEroy (2-0) allowed two hits in 1 2/3 innings for the win. Jim Abbott started for the Angels, whose fifth-inning rally enabled him to avoid his 10th loss.

At Texas, John Jaha had four hits and drove in four runs and Dave Nilsson added two hits and three RBI to power the Milwaukee Brewers to a 14-4 thumping of the Rangers.

Ben McDonald (6-3) allowed four runs and 12 hits over 5 2/3 innings for the win.

Ken Hill (7-5) was ripped for nine runs and eight hits in 3 2/3 innings as the Brewers erupted for 20 hits off four Texas pitchers.

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Romania face Bulgaria today

Iordanescu delays decision on showdown

NEWCASTLE (AFP) — Romania coach Anghel Iordanescu, the target of heavy criticism, is delaying deciding his team for their crucial tie against Bulgaria here Thursday.

Iordanescu, whose side fell 1-0 to France following a keeper error, has had abuse heaped on him by the ever demanding Romanian press corps following his team's fortune.

He has been upset by claims that, he and his team is too old and clearly beyond it.

"I don't know what you hope to achieve by saying I am useless and that the team is old and past its sell-by-date. That's rubbish. I don't have to prove myself — my conscience is clear and I can sleep at night," he fumed.

The Romanian media are demanding keeper Bogdan Stelea be axed, after he miscalculated and raced off his line in the opener against France only to look back and see Christophe Dugarry's looping header sail into the empty net.

But Iordanescu refuses to be steamrollered.

"I'll weigh everything up in the next two days but Stelea has had a lot of good games and contributed to us being here in the first place," said Iordanescu.

"He felt very guilty for that mistake, very responsible, and he has taken it very badly. But I'm sure it will be his last. He is working so very hard and he has the professional solidarity of his teammates behind him."

Against France, Romania showed little of the excitement and flair which made them such a hit on their run to the 1994 World Cup quarter-final, but Iordanescu remained optimistic.

"The match against Bulgaria will be vital but we can win it and we can still qualify," he said.

Striker Florin Raducioiu, who is to play for West Ham next season, looked unfit and had to be taken off at half-time against France which must surely cause concern for Iordanescu.

But veteran playmaker Gheorghe Hagi remains convinced Romania can still make the quarter-finals.

"I think we are one of the best teams in the tournament. We must beat Bulgaria and I believe we can," said Hagi.

Meanwhile the Bulgarian squad will be staying Wednesday and Thursday nights in a Newcastle hotel. They will also possibly move into a hotel at Newton Aycliffe south of Newcastle when the Romanians move out to prepare for their last group match at Leeds.

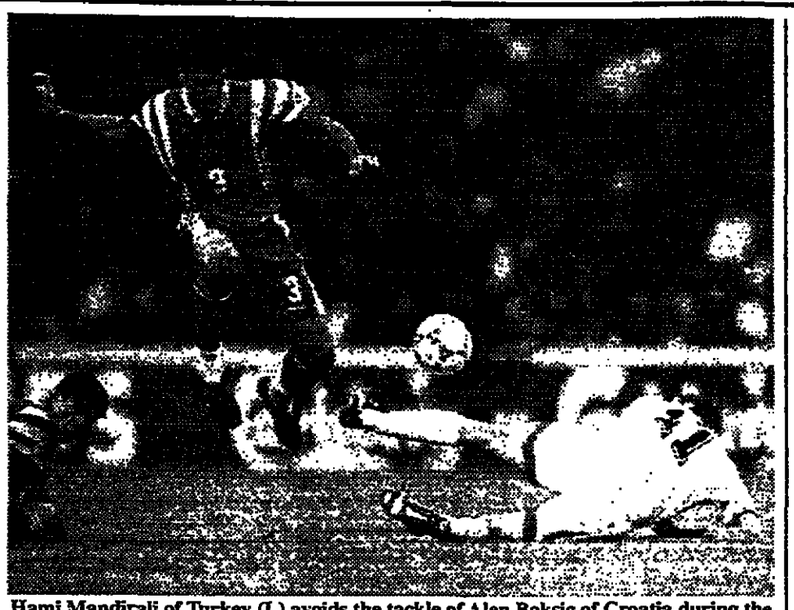
But coach Dimitar Penev has not yet decided whether to leave their base at Scarborough after the players complained of being bored in the quiet seaside town — the players only had golf, table tennis and snooker to keep them occupied.

Bobby Mikhailov, the reading keeper, said the general mood was the players would be more happier to stay in the more vibrant Newcastle.

Bulgarians marked their run to the 1994 World Cup semi-final with well-documented drinking, smoking and partying, flying in the face of traditional sports science, perhaps explaining there desire for a livelier town.

Thursday-Friday Euro '96 schedule on ITV

- Romania-Bulgaria 6:30 p.m. channel 2
- Holland-Switzerland 9:30 p.m. channel 3
- Portugal-Turkey 6:30 p.m. channel 2
- Italy-Czech Republic 9:30 p.m. channel 3



Hami Mandirali of Turkey (L) avoids the tackle of Alen Boksic of Croatia during the two teams European Soccer Championship match. The European Soccer Championship is the largest sports event held in England in the last thirty years.(Reuters photo)

Vlaovic's moment of magic gives Croatia victory

NOTTINGHAM (R) — A stunning solo goal by substitute Goran Vlaovic four minutes from time gave Croatia a 1-0 win over Turkey in a disappointing Group D game which completed the first series of matches in Euro 96 Tuesday.

Vlaovic, who replaced the bandaged Alen Boksic after 73 minutes, picked up the ball in his own half, outpaced the chasing defenders and after running fully 50 metres rounded goalkeeper Rustu Recber for the winner.

It was his fifth goal in only his eighth international and was the only memorable moment of a game which had flashes of individual skill from both teams but was largely a disappointing spectacle on a cold, rainy night in a half-filled ground.

Croatia had far more of the play and looked the more likely to score. But they rarely penetrated a Turkish defence which always seemed to have men behind the ball.

Croatia had three chances to score from back-post headers but Mario Stanic, Zvonimir Boban and Davor Suker all missed out.

Turkey, who like Croatia were playing in the European Championship finals for the first time, created a number of half chances of their own but left striker Hakan Sukur isolated in attack for long periods.

Too often when they broke out of defence they wasted their advantage with a succession of poor final passes. Turkey, urged on by the vociferous support of around 15,000 fans in the 22,000-crowd, made a bright start and Sergen Yalcin tried his luck with a long-range shot after 11 minutes.

The Turks, with Abdullah Ercan and skipper Ogun Temizkanoglu showing invention, also played some nice football in midfield, but their attacks petered out in the final third, allowing Croatia to launch several counter offensives.

But with two defenders on Zvonimir Boban, one of their main playmakers who had a largely ineffectual game before going off after 57 minutes, the Croatians tended to play the long ball forward — and their attacks also came to nothing.

Apart from the goal, the one exception came in the 67th minute when Robert Prosinecki and Robert Jarni worked an intelligent free kick on the left. Jarni's far-post cross found Suker whose close-range header somehow bounced wide of a gaping goal.

The winning goal also came on the counter-attack, almost directly from a Turkish corner.

The game did little to dispel the feeling that at 80-1, Turkey have little chance of advancing to the quarter-finals, although they have some good technique and look one of the fittest sides in the competition.

Croatia, tipped as tournament dark horses, will need to improve on this poor performance in their next match against defending champions Denmark at Sheffield on Sunday if they are to be taken as realistic, potential champions.

Euro '96

Germany and Italy become firm favourites for final

LONDON (AFP) —Rock solid Germany and lethal Italy are firm favourites to meet in the Euro 96 final at Wembley on June 30 after their convincing opening wins this week.

While most teams had to settle with draws, the two powerhouses of European football immediately took the pressure off themselves by winning first time out.

Germany beat Czech Republic 2-0 but paid a high price for their efforts. Goals from Andreas Moeller and Christian Ziege earned the victory but the injured Jurgen Kohler will play no more part in the tournament.

Italy beat Russia 2-1, striker Pierluigi Casiraghi twice slicing the Russian defence like a stiletto. And the team escaped injury free.

"They were really solid," remarked German striker Oliver Bierhoff, who plays in Italy for Serie A club Udinese.

So were Germany in their destruction of Czech Republic.

The two performances were by far the most impressive of the tournament to date. All teams have played one match a piece and most of them have plenty of work to do if they hope to halt the German-Italy rush towards Wembley.

Holland, one of the pre-championship favourites, could do nothing more than finish with a goalless draw against lowly Scotland.

Although Swedish referee Leif Sundall missed a blatant handball by Scottish midfielder John Collins in the sixth minute which would have given Holland a penalty, the reality is that the

Dutch, despite all their chance, could not get the ball in the back of the net.

In fact, most of the teams have been having trouble scoring.

After eight matches only 13 goals have been scored — a miserable tally which simply underlines the lack of real strikers suffered by most teams.

But if goals have been a rare commodity, yellow and red cards have been flashing with almost obscene regularity as the men in black take UEFA's get tough stance to the limit.

With over six cards a game, some teams risk not being able to field eleven players in the latter stages of the tournament if the referees do not ease up.

Under the championship rules, a second yellow card means a one-match suspension.

Italy only picked up two yellow cards against Russia — Demetrio Albertini and Roberto Donadoni. But Germany are in deep trouble — collecting six against Czechoslovakia.

But Vogts has no intention of changing his side's uncompromising style of play.

"We will continue to play in the same way. If we hold back in a match, we'll have no chance of making the second round," said Vogts.

Euro 96 outsiders Croatia remain mere dark horses after their uninspiring 1-0 win over Turkey. They did little to show they could prove a threat to either Germany or Italy.

The strongest spoiler in the pack is Bulgaria and their brilliant striker Hristo Stoichkov. The Parma player is never better when he is sounding off, complaining about everyone and everything.

Since the tournament began, he has been in fine voice, managing to get himself booked against Spain after telling Italian referee Piero Ceccarini once too often his impressions on his performance to date.

It was classic Stoichkov and so were his two goals in the match. Defending champions Denmark stretched out a 1-1 draw with Portugal and although they should at least reach the quarter-finals, they have done nothing to show that they will become the first team in championship history to defend their title.

England are too busy denying the latest drunken orgy allegations to be considered serious contenders while France, although convincing enough against Romania, are looking more *towards the 1998 world* cup.

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Villeneuve makes emotional appearance

MONTREAL (R) — Jacques Villeneuve makes an emotional appearance on the circuit named after *his late father Gilles in* Sunday's Canadian Grand Prix as he seeks his second win of his debut season.

Villeneuve recorded his first Formula One victory in last month's European Grand Prix at the Nuerburgring in Germany.

He then finished second in the Spanish Grand Prix two weeks ago and currently lies joint second in the title chase, just 17 points behind Williams' team mate Damon Hill of Britain.

"Montreal is going to be a little bit crazy with the Canadian fans," said Villeneuve, whose father won the race in a Ferrari in 1978.

"But for sure it is going to be a lot of fun if everything goes right."

Hill's best performance here came two years ago when he finished second but he remains hopeful that he can withstand the challenge of a resurgent Michael Schumacher.

Defending champion Schumacher celebrated his first victory for the Ferrari team in the rain-drenched Spanish Grand Prix in Barcelona and said later he was hopeful of retaining his title.

"The world championship is open again," he said. "Usually I am a realist, now I feel more of an optimist."

Hill is also optimistic.

"The circuit is okay, although it is not one of the great tracks," he said. "But the racing is good there, especially with the change that has created the long straight and a good overtaking opportunity.

"There is always a good crowd in Montreal, they love their motor sport, and Jacques being there will add to that."

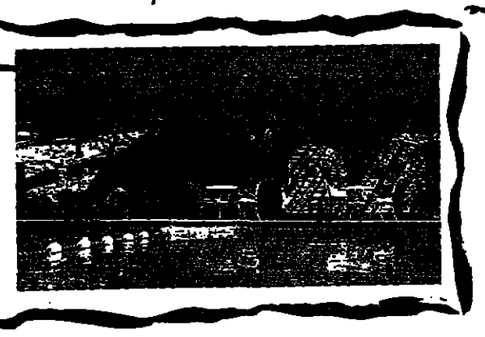
Frenchman Jean Alesi raced to his first victory with Ferrari here last year and hopes now to repeat his feat with the Benetton *team.π*

"Last year it was wonderful for me in Montreal and we had a lovely party, partly for my victory and partly for my 31st birthday," said Alesi. "The team have been working very hard and we have become more and more competitive as the season has gone on.

"But we still need to do that little bit more to take the final step and I cannot think of anywhere better to start winning than in Montreal."

Briton Martin Brundle, driving a Jordan, will be competing in his 150th Grand Prix.

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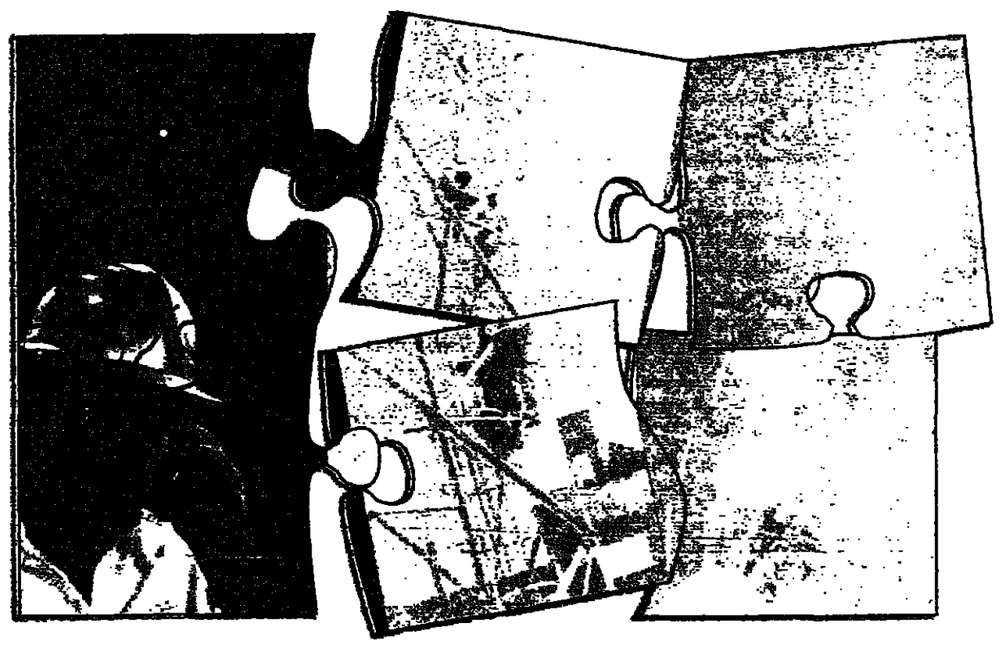
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Palestinian council postpones session in dispute with Israel

NABLUS (Agencies) — The Palestinian legislative council postponed a planned session on the West Bank on Wednesday after deputies from the Gaza Strip were prevented from leaving the territory because they refused to submit to Israeli security checks, officials said.

Ahmad Qouriea, the council's speaker, strongly protested what he said was an Israeli attempt to "hinder the work of the legislative council" and said the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) had demanded a meeting later the same day with Israeli officials to discuss the standoff.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat was already in Nablus for what was to have been the council's first session in this northern West Bank city since it was elected in January.

Twenty Gaza deputies to the 88-member council have refused since Monday to submit to Israeli security checks at the Erez crossing from the Strip into Israel, saying they had not been subjected to such measures in the past.

The army insisted that the deputies pass through metal detectors and open their bags for inspection.

Israeli army spokesman Shlomo Dror denied that the demands represented exceptional measures. "It's the same checking they have gone through in the past," he said.

Mr. Dror confirmed the deputies' right to travel to the West Bank, but said that until an agreement is reached on opening up a "safe passage" route from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank, "they have to go through the security check."

"We have no intention of stopping the checks," he said.

Palestinian and Israeli officials have been negotiating for weeks on the safe passage agreement, and Palestinian officials said a protocol agreement was expected next week.

Mr. Qouriea, complained angrily over the Israeli intransigence.

"Our deputies were elected by the Palestinian people ... and Israel is not giving them the treatment they deserve," he said. "We will not accept such actions."

The legislature was scheduled to debate the policy programme submitted by Arafat's self-rule cabinet last month and hold a vote -of-confidence in the government.

The Gaza Strip has 34 deputies in the legislative council elected in January, but 14 of them were already outside the territory, council members said.

"We are protesting at the Israeli authorities' obstruction of the arrival of 22 legislators and to show solidarity with our colleagues," Deputy Speaker Mitri Abu Aita told Reuters in Nablus. "The eighth session will not be held today."

It was unclear whether the legislature would meet on Thursday. It normally meets on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

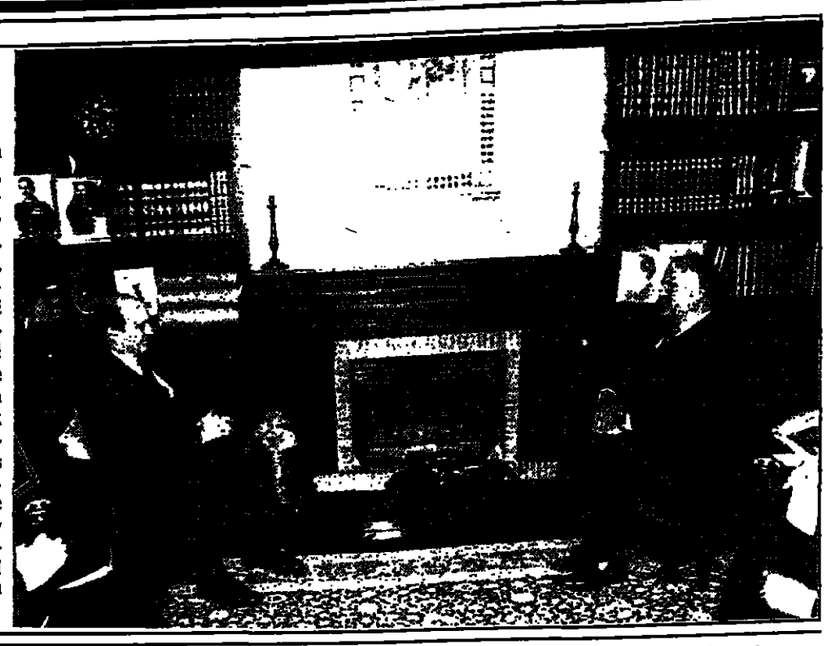
Israel has toughened travel regulations between the West Bank and Gaza Strip through its territory since a spate of militant suicide bombings in February and March in which 59 people were killed.

But Palestinians said the regulations did not include subjecting legislators to humiliating searches. Legislators said they would not accept Israeli security checks.

"It is unacceptable that the legislative council members who represent the dignity of the Palestinian people be subjected to such treatment," said Nahed Al Rayes, another deputy speaker.

Regent meets Possavalyuk

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesday meets Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Possavalyuk. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said discussions during the meeting covered means to advance the Middle East peace process and the question of the Chechens in the Balkan region. Mr. Possavalyuk voiced his country's appreciation of Jordan's efforts to secure peace in the Middle East, Petra said. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Khaled Madadha and the Russian ambassador to Jordan.



Gaza rights activist sees frame-up, fears for his life

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A leading Palestinian critic of Yasser Arafat wrote in a note smuggled out of his jail cell that he is being framed on a drug charge and that he fears for his life, human rights activists said Wednesday.

"I have been subjected to beatings," read the handwritten note signed by the activist, Eyad Sarraj. "They are trying to set me up on a drug charge. I feel my life is in danger. Rescue me. The situation is dangerous."

A copy of the note was shown to the Associated Press by human rights activists who requested anonymity for fear of retaliation.

Dr. Sarraj, a Palestinian human rights activist, has been held without charges since Sunday night, his third arrest in six months.

Palestinian police claimed illegal drugs were found during a search of Dr. Sarraj's office Monday.

Dr. Sarraj's lawyers said they believe the drugs, apparently a chunk of hashish the size of a cigarette pack, were planted to find a reason to hold their client. During the raid, police seized documents, tapes and files.

Palestinian Attorney General Khaled Kidra said charges were to be filed against Dr. Sarraj Wednesday and that he expected Dr. Sarraj's detention to be extended by 15 more days.

Dr. Sarraj's lawyer, Raji Sourani, said that Mr. Kidra's office has not allowed him to see his client or informed him when or where he would appear in court.

Dr. Sarraj heads the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens Rights. He was first arrested May 18 and held for nine days after he called Arafat's regime corrupt and dictatorial. He told the New York Times in an interview that Palestinian police made arbitrary arrests and tortured detainees.

Dr. Sarraj, a psychologist and the head of a mental health centre in Gaza, renewed his criticism of the Palestinian National Authority's human rights record after he was released in May.

Mr. Kidra on Wednesday criticised the intensive media coverage of the Sarraj case.

"Why do you make such a big fuss about a criminal who had drugs in his possession?" Mr. Kidra told a reporter Wednesday.

Human Rights Watch/Middle East, a U.S.-based group, protested Tuesday the arrest of Dr. Sarraj. Human Rights Watch said that no charges had been filed against Dr. Sarraj and called for his immediate release.

Dr. Sarraj's third arrest in six months and the detention of other critics of the government "casts serious doubt on the Palestinian National Authority's commitment to fundamental human rights, including the right to free expression," the group said in a statement.

Eitan may be denied sensitive post because he faces indictment

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's attorney general is considering barring far-right politician Rafael Eitan from obtaining the internal security minister's job in Prime Minister-elect Benyamin Netanyahu's new government, Israeli media reported Wednesday.

Attorney-general Michael Ben Yair informed Mr. Netanyahu earlier this week that Mr. Eitan, a former army chief of staff and head of the far-right Tsomet party, could not hold any ministerial posts linked to intelligence gathering because he faces indictment for illegal use of military documents, Israel Radio said.

Mr. Ben Yair's office declined to comment on the reports, which also appeared in Israeli newspapers Wednesday.

Officials in Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party said Mr. Eitan had been offered the post of internal security minister and the agriculture portfolio in the new government after Mr. Netanyahu rebuffed his demands to be defence minister.

Mr. Eitan is accused of illegally using a military data bank in 1994 to obtain the army records of a Tsomet militant he was trying to expel from the party.

Mr. Ben Yair's office said no decision had been made about indicting Mr. Eitan. But the media reports said the attorney-general wanted to prevent the former army chief from controlling a ministry that has access to sensitive data banks, such as the internal security portfolio which controls the police.

Mr. Eitan joined in an electoral alliance with Likud for the May 29 elections, agreeing not to run against Mr. Netanyahu and Labour incumbent Shimon Peres for the prime ministership in exchange for promises of a senior cabinet position in the new government. His Tsomet party also obtained five seats in parliament among the 32 won by the Likud alliance.

Earlier this week Mr. Ben Yair also informed Mr. Netanyahu of plans to indict Ehud Olmert, the mayor of Jerusalem and a senior Likud official, in connection with illegal party financing during the 1988 election campaign.

Mr. Olmert was Likud treasurer at the time. If indicted, Mr. Olmert could not serve in the cabinet. Israel Radio reported Wednesday that Mr. Netanyahu hoped to name olmert to a special cabinet post in charge of Jerusalem.

Mr. Olmert denied any wrongdoing on Tuesday.

"I am disappointed by the decision (to press charges) and I am sure that the attorney-general is mistaken and it will become clear," Mr. Olmert told Israel Radio.

Mr. Olmert is suspected of involvement in creating false receipts and other misdeeds during the Likud Party's election campaign eight years ago.

Mr. Olmert, currently has immunity as a member of parliament. Under Israeli rules, Mr. Olmert, as a public servant, can ask for a personal hearing with Mr. Ben Yair to argue against prosecution.

In a statement carried by the radio, Mr. Olmert maintained he did not guide, instruct or initiate any action aimed at disguising contributions to Likud.

Arab diplomats in Israel hold coordination talks

By Ghalia Ahul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Heads of the four Arab diplomatic missions in Israel held a meeting at the Jordanian embassy in Tel Aviv on Wednesday in what the Jordanian ambassador described as the first visible and tangible translation of the Middle East peace process on the diplomatic scene in the Jewish state.

Ambassador Omar Rifai said the 90-minute meeting did not come up with any definite plans and focused mainly on the issue of peace.

Mr. Rifai, in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, described the meeting as very good and said such encounters were expected to be regularly held by the "Arab Group" in Israel.

The meeting reviewed "several issues of common interest" and the participants pledged continued cooperation among them to advance the peace process, Mr. Rifai said.

The ambassador rejected Israeli media speculation that the meeting was prompted by the election victory of Israeli right-wing leader Benyamin Netanyahu as prime minister in May 29 elections and was a "mini-summit" ahead of the June 21-23 summit of Arab leaders in Cairo.

Mr. Rifai said, however, the group, which includes ambassadors Mohammed Bassiuni of Egypt and s Ahmad Id Al Judi of Mauritania and Tunisian representative Khamis Jinawi, will continue to work together "on supporting and promoting peace in the Middle East."

Morocco was the only Arab state with a diplomatic presence in Israel which did not attend the meeting and did not give immediate explanation for the absence, Agence France Presse (AFP) said.

AFP added that the Tunisian representative said the group will "coordinate with the new government in any step it will take to achieve peace."

Balkan disarmament efforts bogged down

OSLO (AFP) — The former warring parties of ex-Yugoslavia failed in Oslo on Wednesday to meet a deadline set by the Dayton peace accord on a disarmament agreement, but were expected to resume talks in the coming days.

The parties agreed to "stop the clock" in order to find a political solution to the battle over the wording of the agreement, according to the head negotiator, Norwegian General Vigleik Eide.

The parties will now continue talks at various levels, aimed at meeting a June 20 deadline, "but there will be no big negotiation meeting called," Gen. Eide said.

"I am sure that we will be able to find a solution ... and that we will end up with a signing," he said. "As soon as I feel that the parties are ready to sign, we will organise a meeting," he added.

According to a source close to the negotiations, that meeting will take place in Vienna, where the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is based.

Gen. Eide, who presided over the negotiations on behalf of the OSCE, said he would travel to Florence on Thursday to continue the talks at the international conference on Bosnia.

The Sarajevo government has blocked the signing in a row over the wording of the document, refusing to accept the Republika Srpska's demand that it be treated equally, in the introduction to the text, with Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The parties had already stopped the clock on Tuesday night after a full day of talks in the Norwegian capital. According to the Dayton peace accord, the parties were to have signed the document by 22:00 GMT on Tuesday.

"The parties agree that the arms control text should be protected so that it can still be accepted," said Gen. Eide.

All of the parties have agreed to the contents of the accord, which was hammered out in Vienna on Thursday and which will take effect immediately after it is signed.

It sets heavy weapons ceilings for Yugoslavia, Croatia and Sarajevo, with an annexe fixing a 2:1 ratio for arsenals of the Muslim-Croat federation and Republika Srpska.

According the Dayton accord, signed in Paris in December, a failure to reach a disarmament accord by Tuesday at 22:00 GMT would mean that previous ceilings set under Dayton would take effect.

However, Gen. Eide told AFP that this is not applicable, as the terms of the accord had been agreed upon. The parties "have agreed on the ceilings," and "the text is just frozen," he said. Sarajevo claims that the two Bosnian sub-entities — the Muslim-Croat federation and the Republika Srpska — should be attached to Bosnia and not granted equal status with the state of Bosnia that it represents until the elections.

The Sarajevo government fears that doing so would kickstart diplomatic recognition of the Bosnian Serbs.

At the crux of the debate is the fact that Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia are the three signatories of the Dayton peace accord, but in annex 1b of the accord, under which the disarmament agreement was concluded, all five parties are stated as being on equal footing. Gen. Eide refused to call Wednesday's failure to sign a collapse. "It's almost a success, but we didn't crown it with a signature," he said.

Court overturns conviction in 'Islamist revivalists' case

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Court of Cassation has overturned a State Security Court conviction of three men on charges of illegal possession of explosives, lawyers and family members said Wednesday.

The three were part of an alleged group which involved six people, named in court documents as "Islamic revivalists."

The six were charged in the State Security Court with plotting subversion and illegal possession of explosives with the intent of using them illicitly.

But in its March 16 ruling, the State Security Court amended the charges to illegal possession of explosives without the intent of using them illegally.

The court said then it decided to amend the charges because the defendants had no past criminal record, they were married, supported families and they deserved to be "given another chance."

Defence lawyer Radi Ghareibeh said Wednesday that while the State Security Court convicted the three men for "illegal possession of explosives," the Court of Cassation ruled that since "the defendants did not intend to use the explosives and were only trying to get rid of them," they were not guilty.

The three men who were found guilty by the State Security Court in March and were sentenced to seven and a half years were Saber Tawfiq Miqbel, 44, Khaled Mahmoud Rahal, 28, and Khaled Mustafa Kilani, 22.

"Justice has prevailed," Marouf Miqbel, brother of Saber Miqbel, said. "We knew that Saber was innocent. We had faith in the justice system that he will be acquitted."

During the six-month trial, the defendants tried to prove that they had collected the explosives to protect themselves during the Gulf war of 1991 in case that war spilled over Jordan. When the war was over, they said, they buried the explosives to get rid of them.

The prosecution sought to prove that the explosives found with the defendants were intended to be used in terrorist attacks in Jordan.

The three other accused, who were held for one year, were acquitted by the State Security Court for lack of evidence.

Evidenceagainst the defendants in the trial were their own testimonies, seized explosives and weapons and a copy of the 1994 law endorsing Jordan's peace treaty with Israel.

According to Mr. Ghareibeh, the three defendants, who have been held for 15 months, will stand trial at a civil court for belonging to an illegal organisation.

If convicted of the charge, the defendants face a maximum six-month prison term.

Bahrain arrests key suspect in alleged plot

MANAMA (AFP) — Bahraini authorities have announced the arrest of a key suspect in an alleged Iranian-backed plot to overthrow the government in the unrest-hit emirate.

A government spokesman told the official news agency GNA on Wednesday that security services had arrested Jaafar Ali Hussein, "the man accused who is charged with buying and bringing arms and ammunition into the country."

The suspect had confessed in front of a judge to having smuggled in eight guns and a quantity of ammunition, the spokesman said, without giving a date for Hussein's arrest.

Bahraini newspapers said Hussein, 30, lived in the Shiite Muslim village of Sanabis, west of Manama, and worked as a grocer.

He was part of a group of plotters that included seven other people involved in the last 18 months of unrest, the reports said.

He bought arms through business contacts in neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

Bahrain accused Iran on June 3 of working to topple the government by financing a Shiite militant group called Bahrain-Hizbollah. Iran denied the charges, which led to ties being reduced to the level of charge d'affaires.

State television has since aired the confessions of six alleged militants.

Since December 1994 Bahrain has been hit by anti-government unrest led by Shiites demanding a restoration of parliament suspended in 1975 by the Sunni Muslim-led authorities.

Kuwait MP denies report

A Kuwaiti deputy said in remarks published on Wednesday Bahrain had made a joke out of itself by saying there was a pro-Iranian plot to topple the government.

"The presence of U.S. fleets and (military) bases in the Gulf generally, and especially in Bahrain, makes a tasteless joke of those saying there was a coup attempt," Al Ra'i Al Aam daily said in a report based on remarks by Abdul Mohsen Jamal.

"I believe there are government parties (people) behind the explosions and they are fomenting unrest to divert attention from the popular democratic demands in Bahrain," Mr. Jamal, a Shi'ite member of the Kuwaiti parliament's foreign affairs committee, was quoted as saying.

"It is hard to confirm Iran's backing of those operations even with the confessions of the accused, since they were not sent to a fair court," Mr. Jamal said.

Jamal urged Kuwait's parliament, which has said Bahrain's security is inseparable from that of Kuwait, to support the Bahrainis' reform demands.

COLUMN 8

Bangladesh radio uses songs to spur voters

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh's state radio celebrated the start of voting in elections Wednesday by airing catchy songs that told citizens to cast their ballots, a task not too familiar in the fledgling democracy. "Let us go, let us go. Let us all go and vote," said one tune. Many of the songs were set to folk tunes of the boatmen and farmers of the predominantly-agricultural nation sandwiched between India and Burma. The songs, interrupted by announcements on polling procedures, asked the 56.7 million eligible voters of the 120-million-strong nation to cast their ballots without fear.

Buzzard attacks, injures joggers

SOMMERHAUSEN, Germany (AFP) — An enraged buzzard attacked joggers near Wuerzburg in Bavaria, leaving two of them with injuries to the back of the head and face. The bird of prey's claws nearly took out the eyes of one 44-year-old man in the recent attack, according to Sommerhausen Mayor Gerhard Oehler, who said Wednesday that people in the recreational area should keep a watch over their children. The buzzard, wholly protected species may not be hunted or destroyed. Regional bird protection association ornitinerary expert Andreas Von Lindeiner said such attacks were infrequent but not unusual and had occurred before in Bavaria. He said the Sommerhausen bird was obviously a particularly nervous one, that such reactions were a defence mechanism during the raising of the buzzard's young. People who came under attack were advised to protect their face and head with a stick and to move away from the scene promptly but not overhastily.

Rogue hippo terrorises Lake Victoria villagers

NAIROBI (R) — A rogue hippopotamus is chasing herdsmen and their cattle, crushing crops and spreading fear among villagers on the shores of Lake Victoria. Villagers in Kirindo, western Kenya, have asked the Kenya Wildlife Service to remove the hippo which is terrorising them in broad daylight, the Kenya Times said. The hippo appears to have won the first round in the dispute over territorial rights after a local game warden based near Kisumu warned farmers not to encroach on land at the lake's edge.

China's modernisers go back to stone age

BEIJING (AFP) — China's modernisation drive is throwing up a bizarre paradox in northwestern regions where the authorities are encouraging locals to take up cave-dwelling. An estimated 40 million cave dwellers still exist in China, most of them on the country's northwestern Loess Plateau. Now a team of Chinese architects has joined forces to breathe fresh air into the traditional caves and upgrade them into 21st-century dwellings with "modern conveniences," the China Daily said Wednesday. Rapidly rising incomes have driven many cave-dwellers out of their ancestral homes to brick houses — a move that has put a tremendous strain on China's limited arable land. The caves further occupy arable land and harm hillsides and cannot make full use of solar energy.